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Thursday, August 11, 1988
Sravana, 20, 1910 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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C O N T E N T S

[*Eighth Series, Volume XLI, Eleventh Session, 1988/1910 (Saka)*]

No. 12, Thursday, August 11, 1988/Sravana 20, 1910 (Saka)

	COLUMNS
Oral Answers to Questions :	1—27
*Starred Questions Nos. 223, 224, 227, 228 and 230 to 232	
Written Answers to Questions :	27—325
Starred Questions Nos. 225, 226, 229, 233 to 243	27—40
Unstarred Questions Nos. 2285 to 2315, 2317 to 2446 and 2448 to 2498	39—325
Resolution re : Unconditional Release of Nelson Mandela, the Great Freedom Fighter of South Africa	326—327
Papers Laid on the Table	328—332
Messages from Rajya Sabha	332
Bills, as Passed by Rajya Sabha— <i>Laid</i>	332—333
Estimates Committee—	333
Action Taken Statements— <i>Laid</i>	
Calling Attention to Matter of Urgent Public Importance—	337—353
Reported outbreak of Kala-azar in various parts of the country—	
Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh	337, 339—341
Shri Moti Lal Vora	337—339, 350—353
Shri C.P. Thakur	341—345
Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan	345—347
Shri C. Madhav Reddi	347—348
Shri R.S. Khirhar	349
Matters Under Rule 377—	354—357
(i) Need for strict implementation of order banning certain drugs—	
Shrimati Kishori Sinha	354

*The Sign † marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

(ii) Need to formulate Master Plan for development of inland Navigation in Orissa	
Shri Lakshman Mallick	354—355
(iii) Need to lay the proposed railway line from Rewa to Sultanpur via Amethi—	
Shri Raj Karan Singh	355
(iv) Demand for a medical college in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh—	
Shri Nandlal Choudhary	355—356
(v) Need to set up dairy farms in backward areas of the country—	
Shri Ganga Ram	356
(vi) Need to consider the Demands of Shram Parishad, a constituent of Asom Gana Parishad—	
Shri Bhadreswar Tanti	356—357
(vii) Need to provide adequate financial assistance to Mohini Mills Ltd. to save it from closure—	
Kumari Mamta Banerjee	357
Statutory Resolution re : Disapproval of Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Ordinance, 1988	358—424
And	
Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Bill—	
Motions to consider—	358—416
Shri G.M. Banastwalla	358 —362
Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan	362—364
Shri Dinesh Goswami	364—369
Shri Sriballav Panigrahi	369—372
Shri Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi	373—375
Shri Amar Roypradhan	375—379
Dr. Chandra Shekhar Tripathi	379—382
Shri Ram Nagina Mishra	382—385
Dr. S. Jagathrakshakan	388—390
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	391—394
Shri Ramswaroop Ram	394—398
Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalla	399—403
Shri Mohd. Ayub Khan	403—406
S. Buta Singh	406 —416

	COLUMNS
Statutory Resolution re : Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Ordinance, 1988— <i>negatived</i>	416—417
Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Bill	
Clauses 2 to 10 and 1	417—424
Motion to pass, as amended	
S. Buta Singh	424
Discussion under Rule 193—	424—496
Accident to 26 DN Bangalore-Trivandrum Express between Sasthankotta and Perinad Stations of Southern Railway on 8th July, 1988—	
Shri Indrajit Gupta	424—433
Shri Mullappally Ramachandran	433—437
Shri Thampan Thomas	437—442
Shri G.S. Basavaraju	442—445
Shri Suresh Kurup	445—451
Shri S. Krishna Kumar	451—455
Shri B.B. Ramaiah	455—457
Shri Banwari Lal Purohit	457—460
Shri K. Mohandas	460—462
Shri I. Rama Rai	462—465
Shri G.M. Banatwalla	465—469
Dr. G.S. Rajhans	469—471
Shri Balkavi Bairagi	471—473
Shri M. Subba Reddy	474—477
Shri Harish Rawat	477—480
Shri Madhavrao Scindia	480—496

LOK SABHA DEBATES

1

LOK SABHA

*Thursday, August 11, 1988/Sravana 20,
1910 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Have you allotted him a new seat, Sir ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Mr. Swell has been suspended from the party.

MR. SPEAKER : Who am I ? I am just your servant, Sir.

(Interruptions)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Foreign Trade Handled at Calcutta Port

*223. †SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the share of country's foreign trade handled at Calcutta Port in 1964-65 and in 1984-85 ; and

(b) the reasons for decline, if any, and the remedial steps taken or contemplated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) - The share of Calcutta Port in foreign trade handled by major ports during 1964-65 and 1984-85 was 19.2% and 9.7% respectively.

2

(b) There is no decline in absolute terms. But as a percentage it has declined mainly due to the emergence of new major ports after 1964-65, increased traffic in new cargo handling facilities in other ports and to the differing degrees in the development of hinterland of different ports.

The Government have taken steps for increasing cargo handling capacity and modernising existing facilities.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, it is not clear to me from the reply the Minister has given to my question whether any efforts have been made on the part of the Government to improve the performance of Calcutta Port. Sir, in the year 1964 we were handling 51 million tonnes of cargo whereas today we are handling 134 million tonnes of cargo while the share of Calcutta port in cargo handling has gone down from 19.2 per cent to 9.7 per cent. What is the reason of this decline ? He has stated that it is not declined in absolute terms and it has been shared by some other ports because after 1964-65 a number of ports have come up. But Calcutta is the only major port in Eastern India and it is one of the important ports of our country. So, may I know from the Minister the reason for the decline in cargo handling in Calcutta port ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have mentioned in my previous reply to the hon. Member, it is in absolute terms. Maybe in ratio as you say, that it was 19.2 per cent foreign trade we were handling in 1964-65 and 7.240 lakh tonnes was the total cargo handling during that period. Today, percentage-wise, it has come down to 9.7 per cent, but it has increased to 8 lakh tonnes. Why ? As I have mentioned in my previous reply, earlier there were these 5-6 major ports which were handling the total foreign trade—Bombay on the western side and Calcutta on the eastern side—but some of these ports have come up. As far as the Calcutta port is concerned, a lot of schemes are going on at

the Calcutta port at the moment. If, the hon. Member wants, I can lay the list on the Table of the House because there are 10-12 schemes which are going on.

Sir, I would like to inform the House that Calcutta Port is one of the very important ports and a historical port. The attachment of the shipping sector and the port sector with Calcutta is, of course, historical and that is why even today it is one of the most exclusively maintained ports. We spend round about Rs. 40 crores per year on the dredging itself.

Government is subsidising 90% of the expenditure as subsidy to maintain the port. I do not think, the House is aware of this. Normally ports are on the sea. Here, we are trying to bring sea closer to the port. It is the other way. So, it becomes very costly.

MR. SPEAKER : If Mohammed cannot go to the mountain, the mountain must come to Mohammed.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It has a historical background. We are trying to maintain the port.

As far as the handling capacity is concerned, it has gone up. Modernisation of the port is in progress. Two or three new schemes like container terminal, are also being planned there. It has already gone to ADB. So, all these plans will keep this port as modern. Knowing the historical background, the importance of the port will always be kept in mind by the Government.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Calcutta Port is being ruined by the Government as he has already ruined Nagaland. Our Minister has been to Nagaland.

May I know when this modernisation scheme will be completed and what is the target date? When will the capacity of the Calcutta Port be increased and what are the concrete steps that Government is going to take to improve the performance of the Calcutta Port?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : As I have just said, a lot of schemes are going on. The important schemes are like oil jetty at Haldia, container terminal at Calcutta. Allocations, as I have mentioned, are already

available. But as far as the exact date is concerned, it is a continuous process. Modernisation of port is not one day affair that you do this and the port will become modern. With the advancement of technology...

MR. SPEAKER : It is a continuous process as dredging.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We have taken some steps which are to reduce expenditure on dredging also so that internal resources of the ports are not wasted on this. Whatever technical advancement information we get from other ports, we are trying to utilise them on the Calcutta Port. Container terminal is likely to be completed by 1990. This is one information we have.

Let me assure the hon. Member. The hon. Member said—I do not know which Government is ruining. He did not mention which Government—it is the West Bengal Government or any other Government which he has in mind. But I assure him, we have the complete importance of the port in mind and that is why, I may inform the House that ports have done very well. Just for the information of the House, I may say, every pre-berth waiting time used to be 3.6 days in 1984. It is brought down to 2 days. Average turn round time used to be 12 days. We have brought it down to 8 days. Output per ship was 2,300. Now we have brought it up to 3500. Number of ships handled was 7400; this year, it is 8500. There is a record handling of 13.4 million tonnes by the port. Efficiency is improved. Demurrage used to be one of our incomes. Our own inaction used to be our efficiency. Now, we have gone so strict that we do not allow this demurrage to go up.

The demurrage has been reduced because of the efficiency of the port. Let me once again, assure the Member that Calcutta Port has a special place in the port sector.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Chowdhary Bahadur !

SHRI H.A. DORA : Sir, why you have given him two names ?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Sir, you stick to one name only. Another

name is not necessary.

MR. SPEAKER : No problem.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : I am afraid of Mr. Vir Bahadur only.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Because his telephone will be tapped !

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : In absolute term, foreign cargo handled by our ports has increased. We find that cargo handled by Calcutta port has declined. One of the reasons advanced by the Minister is that it is due to new ports that have come up in other parts of the country. I want to know, is this the suggestion given by the hon. Minister that the new ports have been to make a decline of the existing ports ? Is that the reason you want to advance ? What is the plan of setting up new ports ? When you have certain capacity in a particular existing port, you allow that to decline and then you develop a new port. Is it not a wastage of money ? I believe the reason is not that but a particular neglect which has been shown to Calcutta port over the years. There is no modernisation, nothing. But you know that on Calcutta port depends the economy of West Bengal. You have to take special care. I do not find any time-bound special programme for Calcutta port that you are having and executing. You please narrate it, if you have any, or have a meeting with many people who are concerned with it and do something immediately.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : What I have meant was that the foreign trade was earlier handled by six major ports and the country has now ten major ports, division automatically takes place. It is not that ships from the original country are marked to particular port. Foreign trade is also not stationary. It increases or declines. In totality, our foreign trade has gone up. In totality, we have handled more foreign trade in Calcutta itself. I have told you that it has in absolute terms has gone high. I have given you the figures.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : There is congestion in some ports and some ports are declining. Is there any centralised planning ? I do not know who monitors it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : There is a planning for this and if there was no planning, how can we make that much progress from 50 million tonnes to 133 million tonnes ? The hon. Member of Parliament from that sector, Kumari Mamata Banerjee has been complaining. She is coming every time with a complaint from there.

As far as modernisation is concerned, I am ready to lay on the Table of the House the plans which are going on in Calcutta Port, and the time-bound programmes which are going on in Calcutta port.

If the hon. Member says in one word that there is no modernisation, I have no word for that. (*Interruptions*) Let me once again assure the House that modernisation in the Port is in progress. (*Interruptions*).

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is in my Constituency. I have special interest in regard to this. Calcutta port is one of the important and historic ports of our State. (*Interruptions*). They are always disturbing. What is this ? It has become their habit. I was keeping quiet when they are putting supplementaries.

It is in my Constituency and it is one of the most important and historic ports of our country. The hon. Minister has said that the Government is going to take some action to modernise the Calcutta port and other things.

I would like to request the hon. Minister to be practical, not to be theoretical, because there is a feeling among the people that the condition of the Calcutta port is deteriorating day by day because of the negligence and other activities there.

Will the hon. Minister visit Calcutta port and meet all the representatives of the unions to take stock of the measures so that Calcutta port can be modernised and Calcutta port would survive ? Will the hon. Minister do this immediately in the interest of my Constituency, in the interest of my State and in the interest of our country ?

MR. SPEAKER : Do you agree, Mr. Saifuddin Chowdhary ? !

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : No objection !

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The impor-

tance of this Calcutta port, as I have mentioned, is that in 1985-86, the total outlay for Calcutta port was Rs. 7.35 crores.

In 1988-89, we have Rs. 15.7 crores. The outlay has been planned for the works which are required at Calcutta port from Government side.

As far as practical measures are concerned, as the hon. Member has mentioned this point, I lay on the Table of the House

the schemes which are going on in Calcutta port.

Regarding my visit, I have been visiting the ports very often. If the hon. Member wants to have any special meeting, if they all want to sit together and if they want my presence, I have no objection. At any time you require me, I am available.

I lay on the Table Statement showing important schemes included in the 7th Five Year Plan for Calcutta and Haldia.

Statement

Name of the Scheme	Approved Outlay (Rs. in Lakhs)
Calcutta	
Replacement of RS Vessel Pathfinder	650.00
Replacement of 6 six tonne and 3 ten tonne capacity mobile cranes	190.00
Replacement of Steam Dock Tug Malati	250.00
Replacement of Steam Dock Tug Champa	250.00
Replacement of Steam River Tug Stalwart with Fire Fighting Equipment	410.00
Replacement of Six Steam and Three diesel locos by four diesel locomotives	200.00
Replacement of one Pilot Vessel	250.00
Replacement of despatch vessel Nadia	200.00
Container Terminal	245.00
Haldia	
Additional general cargo berth	600.00
Second Oil Jetty with tractor tugs	3558.00
Protection of River Bund	180.00
Augmentation of existing container terminal	100.00
Residential Qts. at Chiranjibpur and Township	175.00
Improvement of infrastructural facilities and traffic circulation	108.00
Strengthening of existing Oil Jetty	350.00

Allocation of Funds for Rural Development

*224. †SHRI H.B. PATIL :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether economists, planners, social scientists, administrators and voluntary agencies engaged in rural upliftment have suggested more investment in the rural sector and emphasized that it should be, as far as possible, oriented to generate employment and income on a substantial basis ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make some changes in the present system of allocation of funds for the National Rural Employment Programme and RLEGP and allocate it to districts to distribute among the various Panchayats on basis of selected criteria like population, etc. ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. In the National Seminar on Poverty Alleviation held in February, 1988, various suggestions have been made for strengthening the poverty alleviation programmes including a suggestion to the effect that more investment need be made in these programme.

(b) and (c). No such decision has been taken by the Government.

[English]

SHRI H.B. PATIL : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister which are those various suggestions made by that Seminar ?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, the seminar emphasised the need to strengthen poverty alleviation programmes for the upliftment of people living below the poverty line. Funds earmarked for this purpose should be used properly and people should get the maximum benefit out of these programmes. All these points were discussed in detail.

[English]

SHRI H.B. PATIL : I would like to

know whether the Government is prepared to accept those various suggestions and if so when those suggestions are going to be implemented ?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, the suggestions were very valuable. These programmes have already been implemented. The Government has already spent a lot of money on these schemes. Sir, if you allow and if hon. Member desires to know the amount spent on each scheme I can provide that information.

MR. SPEAKER : The information may be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stressed on the expenditure of money on the projects which have been used for poverty alleviation programmes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any approach has been made not only to increase assets in the rural areas but also to increase income and the distribution of these incomes in the rural areas so that there is better and equitable distribution. What are the steps taken in that regard ? That is more important than just spending absolute sums of money.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : In India 4.5 crores families are living below the poverty line. Their annual income is less than Rs. 6,400 per annum. In the Seventh Five Year Plan the Centre made a programme for the upliftment of 2 crore families living below the poverty line. In the just three years of the plan 1.10 crore families were provided assistance. In the remaining two years the Government wants to assist the rest of the families below the poverty line. Previously the income limit for classifying people living below the poverty line was Rs. 4800 per annum. Now this limit has been increased to Rs. 6400 per annum keeping in view the inflation, so that their lot could be improved accordingly. There are many programmes for this purpose. Such families are provided bank loans and other facilities so that they could be benefited. The Centre helps the States in the eradication

of poverty.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : May I know whether the Government has sought people's approval for its poverty alleviation programmes or are these programmes being implemented through contractors without any answerability towards the public? Can the hon. Minister cite an instance where these programmes are being implemented with mass support?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Member has asked whether public opinion is considered in the implementation of schemes. No programme is introduced contrary to the wishes and needs of the people. Several schemes are in force for the betterment of people. The entire expenditure on the R.L.E.G.P. is incurred by the Central Government whereas expenditure on N.R.E.P. is shared equally by the Central and State Governments. The type of schemes to be introduced in a State are decided in consultation with the concerned State Governments. If a State Government fails to implement a programme properly, the Centre directs the State to remove the deficiencies. If any hon. Member knows of any particular place in the country where implementation is done against the people's wishes, the Centre may be informed in writing. We will definitely take action against it.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker Sir, part (a) of the question says—

[English]

“Oriented to generate employment and income on a substantial basis—”

[Translation]

May I know how many persons have got employment through these programmes, and how much has their earnings increased? I also want to know how much money has been invested for agricultural development in the rural sector? What concrete programme does the Government have to generate employment through open tubewells, minor and lift irrigation schemes?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have a long list with me. As I said the Centre has many programmes. I shall give

the statistics on expenditure incurred and employment generated through N.R.E.P. from 1985-86 onwards. In 1985-86 Rs. 669 crores were earmarked for this scheme out of which Rs. 531.95 crores were spent. Out of the targetted 22.80 crore mandays, 31.64 crore mandays were generated which is 138.78% of the target.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Under what schemes?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : N.R.E.P.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Let us have it on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : I am giving the statistics because the hon. Member has asked for them. I have no objection in laying the information on the Table of the House.

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I am more interested on the agricultural side.

[Translation]

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : How much work has been done?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : That is what I am telling. In 1985-86 Rs. 694 crores was earmarked for R.L.E.G.P. out of which Rs. 454 crores were spent. Out of a targetted 20.57 crore mandays, 24.15 crore mandays were generated which is 120% of the target.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : All this is on paper only.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : That could be the case in the hon. Member's State but not here. In 1987-88 Rs. 640 crores were spent under this scheme. Out of a targetted 24.26 crore mandays, 30.00 crore mandays were generated which is 112% of the target. Similarly, on the agricultural side there is a programme to instal tubewells. There are separate schemes for small and marginal farmers.... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker Sir, there should be a

half-an-hour discussion on this subject.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : I have already said this in my answer to the question on floods. I have no objection to a discussion if more details are needed. You can have a full-fledged discussion whenever you want.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER :

Shri C. Sambu — Not present

Shri Manik Reddy — Not present

Shri D.B. Patil — Not present

[Translation]

Dates for University Examinations

*227. **SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the regular dates usually fixed for graduate and post-graduate examinations in Indian Universities ;

(b) the names of the Universities along-with the examinations where the examinations have been delayed for more than one year ;

(c) the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken for eliminating delay in holding the examinations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) The final examinations for the award of graduate and post graduate degrees are generally held by the universities between March and May every year. However, in the case of universities which follow the semester system, the examinations are held at the end of the relevant semester.

(b) and (c). The names of universities and the particulars of their examinations due in 1986 and/or in 1987 which were delayed by more than one year are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Central Advisory Board of

Education at its meeting held in March 1988, had recommended that within each State, an academic Calendar indicating the dates of admission, dates of the commencement of the Session, vacation, dates of examinations and announcements of the results, should be framed and strictly adhered to by the universities and colleges. A conference of Education Secretaries held in June, 1988, reiterated the above recommendation and urged all the State Governments to take action for its implementation. The Ministry of Human Resource Development will monitor this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister with regard to delay in holding examinations in Indian Universities is nothing but the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board of Education which it made in the year 1968 and it has also been reiterated in the Education Secretaries' Conference. The hon. Minister did not say anything about the issues that were raised in that connection nor he mentioned about the steps taken to solve the problems ? The hon. Minister has not given the names of the universities where examinations have been delayed. But I know some of the universities, for instance, the universities in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Particularly, examinations in Ranchi and Magadh universities in Bihar are held very late.. The delay is not for a shorter period, but for 3 long years. Law examinations have been delayed by 5 years. Thus, due to lack of uniformity in the examination system in Indian Universities, students of those States who pass the examination comparatively late, cannot take admission in the universities of other States. Three years time is wasted. What is the number of such students and what steps is the Government taking in this direction ?

SHRI L.P. SHAHI : Sir, we have got information on certain universities. There are 138 universities and 21 deemed universities in this country. Their total number comes to 159. Once the University Grants Commission tried to have information in this regard from all the universities. They have written to the universities but collecting figures from all the universities will take time. The information so far available is not adequate. But it is true that examina-

tions of the Central Universities have been delayed. However, this year, it has been toned up to a large extent. The examinations have been delayed in Aligarh University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and some other Central Universities. So far as the question of universities run by States is concerned, examinations have been delayed in the universities in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and some of the universities in Uttar Pradesh, but continued efforts are being made to hold the examinations on time. As has been stated by the hon. Member, it is true that due to delay in announcing results of the examinations, students find it difficult to take admission in other universities. This is a fact. Mostly, administration of the universities is looked after by the States and the universities themselves are independent in their sphere. Every effort is being made to bring them on line and it may take some time. For example, examinations in the Banaras Hindu University are being held on time since 1986 and earlier to that there used to be delay. Similarly, results of intermediate examinations in all the universities of Bihar, barring two universities, have been announced on time. We are making concerted efforts to hold the examinations on time.

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH : Whatever the hon. Minister has said is all right, but will the hon. Minister state whether he will find some way out to extend age relaxation to those students who have been lagging behind by three years and have become age-barred for sitting in any competitive examination? It has also been seen that meetings of their syndicates and senates are not being held. If effective control is not exercised over the universities, education will not be accorded that seriousness as it should have been. In particular, sitting of the law court in the Banaras Hindu University has not yet been held. I request you to find some way out to extend age relaxation to those students in whose case there has been delay in getting jobs.

SHRI L.P. SHAHI : So far as the question of employment is concerned, it is the look out of the Department where employment avenue is open. It does not come under the Ministry of Education. As far the views of the hon. Member, those students whose examination results have been announced late do not get further admission. Large

number of students want to take admission in Delhi University. I had talked to the Vice-Chancellor in this connection. He told that he would consider it next year since last date for this year's admission in the university was already over.

[English]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : The hon. Minister is quite conversant with the problems of universities in Bihar. Is it not a fact that in some of the universities examinations are postponed at the point of pistol? There is a connivance between unruly students and equally indisciplined teachers. Will the hon. Minister do something in this connection? Coming to Delhi University problem, a number of students have approached us saying that the Delhi University flatly refused to admit the students from Bihar whose results are published late.

Bihari students are discriminated again. Will the hon. Minister do something in this connection?

SHRI L.P. SHAHI : Late holding of examination or publication of results itself is a reflection on the state of affairs prevailing in the Universities or society at large. It is a fact that sometimes examinations have to be postponed at the behest of the students or due to strike of teachers or sometimes students demand that there should be a gap of 7 days in each paper. All these things contribute in the delay of examinations. I have no hesitation in admitting that. We are trying to bring all that as far as possible in time.

Crisis in Goa's Mining Industry

*228. **SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mining industry in Goa is passing through a period of crisis ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether mine-owners have made representation to his Ministry ; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to give relief to the industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) to (d).

A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). Goa mainly produces iron ore, besides some manganese ore and other minerals. Iron ore production is entirely export oriented. There has been some decline in iron ore production due to reduced off-take by foreign buyers during 1987-88.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) To mitigate their problems and facilitate renewal of mining leases in Goa, which expired on 22-11-1987, under the Goa, Daman & Diu Mining Concessions (Abolition and Declaration as Mining Leases) Act, 1987, the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, have been further specially amended empowering the State Government to extend the period for making of the renewal application upto one year and to extend duration of the lease for a period of one year from the date of expiry of the lease or the date of receipt of the renewal application, whichever is later, subject to the decision of the State Government, if made earlier, on the renewal application.

They have also represented seeking waiver or time for payment of arrears of dead rent in instalments. A view in the matter has to be taken by the State Government on merits.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Last year this House had passed Goa, Daman and Diu Mining Concessions (Abolition and Declaration of Mining Leases) Act, 1987. Under this Act passed by Parliament old Portuguese mining concessions were abolished and they were treated as mining leases under the Mining Act. However, the mine owners had to fulfil certain conditions to convert them into leases. One was of applying for such a lease with big maps containing details of the area concerned, etc. which became practically a difficult aspect for the mine-owners to fulfil as this condition consisted of exhaustive maps/drawings and filing them.

Secondly they had to pay also the dead rent of the last 27 years, that is, from the time Goa became liberated till today. Now these two issues are pending before the Government. As far as dead rent is concerned the Minister has replied that it has to be sorted out with the Government of Goa.

As far as filing of huge maps/drawings is concerned, are you considering to do away with it ?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR : The hon. Member has raised two points. One is about filing of the mining plans. Mining plan has to be filed under the Act. No concession whatsoever can be made in this regard because we want to ensure scientific mining in Goa. Further we have notified 72 people who are either mining engineers or experts in mining or have technical know-how who will assist the mine-owners in the preparation of the mining plan. The filing of mining plan cannot be done away with.

As far as the payment of dead rent is concerned the hon. Member is aware that so long as Goa was a Union Territory this question could have been considered or disposed of by us. Now Goa is a full-fledged State. So I would request him to use his good offices with the State Government and take up the matter with the State Government.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Sir, about 25 per cent of people in Goa directly or indirectly depend on mining industry. The income generated by the Goans from iron-ore mining has been principally responsible for the high-purchasing power in the hands of the public there. So, instead of asking another supplementary I would request the hon. Minister to pay a goodwill visit to Goa, and study the mining industry as such and see what you can do with respect to giving them relief or concession so that the industry comes up ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You can pass through my constituency. I am just on the border.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR : Sir, the people of Goa are very sturdy and dynamic as the hon. Member is. I would not like the people of Goa to remain dependent on concessions.

I would certainly accept his invitation to visit Goa and see whatever can be done to streamline certain procedures.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Bhanuji, where are you going to conduct raids in Goa and what for ?

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :

The hon. Minister has said in his reply that the iron ore is of good quality and it is being exported. Its export went down in 1987-88. Is there any scheme to set up an export oriented industry based on this iron ore so that we could utilise the export item here itself and make exports after manufacturing iron out of it ?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR : The hon. Member is right to say that the quantum of export went down last year, but there has been an increase this year. During the first three months of last year, i.e. from April to June, 2.8 million tonnes of ore was exported, but the hon. Member will be happy to note that during the corresponding period this year, i.e., 1988-89, 3.7 million tonnes of ore has been exported. So far as his industry is concerned, we have not so far received any such proposal from the Government of Goa.

[English]

**Satpati Fishing Harbour Project,
Maharashtra**

***230. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the revised project cost of the Satpati Fishing Harbour Project was sent by Maharashtra Government in October, 1985 and Union Government had urged the State Government to further revise the project ;

(b) whether the State Government has returned the revised project ;

(c) if so, whether the project has been sanctioned ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The revised cost estimate for fishing Harbour at Satpati stated to have been sent by Government of Maharashtra in October, 1985 has not been received by the Government of India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that no such letter was received in 1985 from the Maharashtra Government. I did not expect such an irresponsible reply from the Government at least when the question is asked in the House. The question is in my name. Had the opposition asked the question, it would have become a privilege issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Who stopped you from raising a privilege issue ?

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : The Maharashtra Government wrote a letter, No. FDX/-2779/1044(9)/ADF-12 dated 31st October, 1985. The reply in 1987 was that it was revised in 1985, but there was a need to revise it for a further period of two years. These are the kind of replies given by the Government in the House. Fishing is a means of livelihood for the poor. The primary duty of the Government is to provide means of livelihood to the poor under its 20-Point Programme. But I do not know what happens to the Centre in matters concerning the Maharashtra Government. A number of projects like the Meerkavada Fisheries Harbour, Agar Danda Fishery Harbour, Satpathy Fishery Harbour and Riwaas Fisheries Harbour project are pending with the Government. What is the concerned Department doing about processing these projects ? The Government should expedite these projects....

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Do not depend on the Secretaries. How is the Government going to go about completing these projects ? Can the hon. Minister give us a time-bound assurance ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker Sir, in this context, if I disclose in the august House the nature of correspondence that took place between the Centre and Maharashtra Government, the hon. Member will have to change his opinion altogether.

In July, 1981 the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries sent a feasibility report to the Ministry. In September 1981, this feasibility report was

sent to the Maharashtra Government to know whether they would agree to its planning. The report was also sent to the Planning Commission for their concurrence. In December, 1981, the Planning Commission's concurrence was received while the Maharashtra Government sent its part-concurrence. In January, 1982, the State Government was once again asked for its comments. In February, 1982 a copy of the feasibility report was sent to the State Government as desired by them. In 1983 World Bank assistance was sought for the proposed pipe-line project. In September 1983 the pipe-line project was completed as its total budget was less than Rs. 25 crores. The State Government was intimated to this effect. As no communication was received from the State Government since 1981, another letter was written to the State Government. In March, 1987 a letter was received from the State Government saying that the project proposal sent in 1985 be sanctioned. Letters were written again in April and September, 1985, but no proposal was received by the Ministry. Once again letters were sent in September 1987 and January 1988 but in spite of that no proposal was received. It is only now, in July 1988, that the State Government has intimated that it is up dating the feasibility report. They have been asked to send the report. I feel, it would be better if the State Government takes more interest in this matter.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Forget all that. Tell us about the latest position.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : The feasibility report or the project report has not been received and as such, it has made no headway. The State Government should take more interest in this matter to make the project a success. It is not true when the hon. Member says that even other schemes pertaining to Maharashtra were treated in the same manner. A total of Rs. 18 crores has been earmarked for the fishery harbour schemes. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 4 crores has gone to Maharashtra. Of the 82 Fishing Landing Centres in the country, 29 have been approved for Maharashtra. Apart from these, Ratnagiri is a minor part of Maharashtra having fishing harbour. A project for this was first sent by the State Government in

1977 with an estimated cost of Rs. 3 crores. In 1985 the cost escalated to Rs. 14.58 crores. The cost of the project for a small fishing landing centre at Mahim Causeway is Rs. 24.64 lakhs. A revised estimate is being taken for the Sassoon Dock which is going to be a major port of Bombay. The cost has increased to Rs. 8 crores from the original Rs. 4.05 crores, and 70% of the work is already complete. In this way, action is being taken on a number of schemes for Maharashtra and a lot of work has already been done.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : I am a Member of Parliament. I undertake to bring with me the concerned Minister and Secretaries of the Maharashtra Government. The necessary documents will also be brought. How long will the Government then take to clear this project? Otherwise poor people have to face problems.

AN HON. MEMBER : Give him a date on which the officials will be brought.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : There will not be any delay on the part of the Government.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I do not know whether the hon. Minister is vegetarian or a non-vegetarian, whether he relishes fish....

MR. SPEAKER : Are you prejudiced against us?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : May be. I am in opposition.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : I am strictly vegetarian.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to remind the hon. Minister that this particular place, Satpati, to which a reference has been made by the hon. Member while asking the question, is one of the best places where you are able to get a large quantity of fish and that too very tasty ones. Since you say that you are vegetarian, you will not realise it. There has been a persistent demand that for this project more funds should be made available and expeditiously the development must take place. You have mentioned some other projects also and you have referred to one in my constituency and

I am very happy about it. But I must say that unless you are able to give priority to these projects, poor men, particularly the poor fishermen, and especially those who resort to fishing by non mechanised methods will not be able to get adequate fish. Will you assure the House and particularly those Members who are coming from coastal line that you will give priority to these projects and try to expedite them as early as possible ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : As I mentioned earlier, we shall take steps as early as possible provided we receive full information and response from the State Governments. We have already provided funds for this project also. And as soon as we receive further details, it will be cleared. There will be no problem.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me make the position a fit more clear. Shri Purohit and Prof. Dandavate have stated that they would be bringing with them the Secretary and the Director. I would like to tell them that the Centre would clear the project within 30 days of its final submission by the Government of Maharashtra.

[English]

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited

*231. †**SHRI SURESH KURUP :**
SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited has been showing profits for the past few years ;

(b) if so, the statistics for the last three years ;

(c) whether there have been complaints of pilferage and malpractices in the working of this company ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and corrective measures taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R.

PRABHU) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir ; the profits made by the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) during the last 3 years are as follows :

Year	(Rs./crores)
1985-86	32.23
1986-87	20.11
1987-88	52.01 (Provisional)

(c) and (d). There were 41 cases of pilferage of stores worth Rs. 4,44,578/- in the last three years, but stores worth Rs. 2,48,353/- were recovered by Central Industrial Security Force/local police.

Apart from that, no other cases of malpractices have come to the notice of the management.

The corrective measures to control crime/pilferage taken by RCF are deployment of security staff at vulnerable points, gearing up of crime and intelligence staff and more intensive patrolling.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, different labour unions in the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited have submitted various memorandums pointing out specific corruption charges against some high officials in this concern, but no action has been taken by the authorities. I would like to know from the Minister whether any CBI enquiry was conducted against the high officials and whether the CBI have submitted their report and any action has been taken on that report.

SHRI R. PRABHU : The CBI have registered seven cases, two in 1986, 3 in 1987 and 2 in 1988 against officials of RCF. I can give you the details of cases if you require. It is a long list of officers against whom action is being taken as suggested by CBI. As far as the first case is concerned, the CBI report was received in October, 1987 recommending departmental action for major penalty against the accused officials. RCF have requested CBI in November, 1987 for additional documents and the case is being prusued. As far as the second CBI case to concerned, report was received in 1987. All the cases are being

pursued as per recommendations of the CBI. asking you.

The company is not avoiding any action against the officials.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, may I know whether it has come to the notice of the Minister that a General Manager has taken leave on medical grounds and went to Dubai and worked with a Concern which is known as M/s. Shapur Palanji which is a contractor for the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers? Again, he has joined back the Rashtriya Chemical and Fertilizer and he is continuing there. This fact was brought to the notice of the authorities by various unions also. I want to know whether he is aware of this fact and whether any action has been taken in this regard.

SHRI R. PRABHU : There are a number of complaints against a General Manager but this particular thing we are not aware of. If the Member is kind enough to send a letter about this, we will take required action and we will not spare anybody who is at fault.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, five employees were involved in it besides some persons of the contractor. A case has been registered against them and the action is in progress.

[English]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : I would like to ask a specific question

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Where will he sit, Sir?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Don't you like friendship?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you averse to sitting by his side?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : No, he is trying to sit by our side... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I am

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Sir, this is a specific question concerning Chemicals and fertilizers and, I think, the answer given is not sufficient. So, I would like to ask another question. There are a number of complaints from several units of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers especially in Chambur region about the air pollution. The situation is so grave that in Chambur it is called the gas chamber.

May I know as to how many units of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers have been prosecuted for causing air pollution and whether the position is same in each of these units? I want to know whether the units have taken any anti-pollution measures to control the air pollution?

SHRI R. PRABHU : Sir, I can assure the hon. Member that there is no hazard due to air pollution as a result of any of the factories of RCF. I have got this monthly report which the Company gives us every month. There is a particular paragraph which says—Pollution control.

"They say that pollution control measures both at Trombay 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and at Thal are satisfactory."

Development of Visakhapatnam and Kakinada Ports with Foreign Assistance and Technology

*232. **SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for development of Visakhapatnam and Kakinada ports in Andhra Pradesh with foreign assistance and technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). For Visakhapatnam Port, foreign assistance has been taken for preparation of a Detailed Project Report for upgrading the iron ore handling facilities to handle vessels of 1.7/2.0 lakh DWT.

For Kakinada, the State Government has suggested the inclusion of the development of port facilities for financing by the Asian

Development Bank.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer given by the Minister is unsatisfactory, unhelpful and vague. As far as the Visakhapatnam Port is concerned, I would like to know from the Minister whether the preparation of the project report has been completed and when it will be implemented. May I also know what is the type of foreign assistance that is taken and whether it includes the financial assistance also ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I could not hear properly the hon. Member's question but I would like to say that at the moment the main project in the Visakhapatnam port is we want to increase the draught so that we can receive the vessels up to 2 lakh DWT.

They want bigger ships for the iron ore which goes to Japan from there. That is why this project is being planned, and this project is being given priority to enhance the receiving facilities for the high-tonnage ships at Visakhapatnam.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : What about Kakinada ?

MR. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Setting up of Centre for Micro-Planning at NIRD, Hyderabad

*225. **SHRI C. SAMBU :**
SHRI MANIK REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the philosophy and objectives of the Centre for Micro-Planning at the National Institute of Rural Development at Hyderabad ;

(b) in what way it is different from the earlier faculty of Integrated Area Planning ;

(c) the achievements of this Centre in Research, Training and Consultancy since its

inception ; and

(d) the number of centres at the National Institute of Rural Development ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The activities of the earlier Faculty of Integrated Area Planning, both in respect of training and research related mainly to area development planning and project implementation particularly in agriculture and allied sectors. The Faculty was converted into a Centre for Micro-Planning with added responsibility for interdisciplinary activities. Apart from micro-level planning for area development which essentially meant provision of infrastructure only, the Centre was made responsible for undertaking studies and training programmes on other related aspects such as rural development strategy formulation, spatial integration of different programmes, people's participation in plan formulation and implementation and introduction of techniques for programme evaluation and monitoring.

The Centre for Micro Planning came into existence in 1983. Till March, 1988 it had completed 28 research studies and conducted 68 training programmes. These include consultancy studies and consultancy training programmes.

There are at present three centres in NIRD, Hyderabad. There is also a Regional Centre at Guwahati which functions as an extension of NIRD, Hyderabad to cater to the training needs of North-Eastern States.

"Clearance of Developmental Projects"

*226. **SHRI D.B. PATIL :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and nature of proposals submitted during the last one year by the Government of Maharashtra to Union Government for clearance for use of forest land to non-forestry purpose ;

(b) the number of proposals cleared and rejected by the Union Government ; and

(c) the reasons for rejecting the proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) A statement is given below.

(b) Thirty proposals have been cleared and two have been rejected.

(c) In one case, use of forest land was

avoidable and hence the proposal was rejected. In the second case, the proposal was for allotment of forest land to an industry and it was rejected as such diversion was against the accepted policy of the Government.

Statement

S. No.	Nature of proposal	Number
1.	Irrigation Project	45
2.	Percolation tanks	34
3.	Pipeline for irrigation	6
4.	Construction of Roads	12
5.	Water supply schemes	13
6.	Construction of Railway line	1
7.	Telecommunication	1
8.	Quarry of stone	4
9.	Wind Electric Generator	1
10.	Conservation of Monsoon water in Tata lake	1
11.	Afforestation by industries	1
12.	Restoration of land to private owners	1
13.	Power Transmission line	19
Total		139

Allotment of Imported Maize to Sikkim

*229. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a request for allocation of imported maize to Sikkim has been received by NAFED ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the required quantity of imported maize has since been allotted to Sikkim ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government of Sikkim have intimated their maize requirements of 8,148 tonnes for poultry feed and 6,560 tonnes for cattle feed.

(c) and (d). Because of limited availability of aid maize, Sikkim has been allotted the following quantities :

For poultry feed	1,200 tonnes
For cattle feed	1,100 tonnes

Deposits of Harappan Age Found in Delhi

*233. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some deposits of the Harappan age were discovered in Delhi recently ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether any schemes are being drawn up to intensify the exploration and excavation work in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) During the season 1987-88, excavations carried out by the Department of Archaeology, Delhi Administration at Mandoli in the Union Territory of Delhi, brought to light deposits of the late Harappan period.

(b) A mud floor and a few pieces of pottery of the late Harappan period as well as a terracotta object and beads were unearthed during the excavations.

(c) The Department of Archaeology, Delhi Administration, has proposed to intensify the excavations at the ancient site at Mandoli during the year 1988-89.

Use of Neem as a Pesticide

***234. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :**
DR. B.L. SHAILESH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether neem has been used traditionally in Indian homes for centuries as a pesticide in agriculture, grains and clothes etc. ;

(b) the progress made in neem research so far by IARI ;

(c) whether any effective neem product has been developed by our scientists for use ;

(d) whether any technology of neem insecticide has been developed and made available under "Lab to Land" programme of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research ; and

(e) whether any self-contained document is proposed to be prepared on the subject for use of students of agriculture, health or for general public knowledge ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The IARI scientists are the first to demonstrate the biological activities of Neem Seed Kernel. A break-through in the utilization of Neem products was made when it was found that a water suspension of seed Kernel possessed antifeedant properties against the locust. Subsequently, it was found effective against several stored grain and crop pests and has many biological effects on oviposition, insect growth and normal development of Insect pests of crops.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir. The IARI has already published a research bulletin entitled, "Neem in Agriculture" and is publishing regularly a Quarterly Neem News letter for the use of students and public in general. Also there is a proposal to revise the 'Monograph on Neem' by C.R. Mitra which was published in 1966.

Perspective Plan for Aluminium Production

***235. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made a realistic assessment of demand of aluminium in the year 2001 ; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to meet this demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b). The demand for aluminium has been estimated by the Planning Commission at 850,000 tonnes by 1999-2000. The various options before the Government for meeting this demand include expansion of existing smelters of National Aluminium Company Limited and Bharat Aluminium Company Limited in public sector, and Hindustan Aluminium Corporation in private sector, as also setting up of a greenfield smelter.

**Centre for Advanced study in Metallurgy
in Banaras Hindu University**

***236. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Centre for Advanced Study in Metallurgy at the Banaras Hindu University is facing closure because of certain differences between the Banaras Hindu University and the University Grants Commission ;

(b) if so, the nature of the differences ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to settle the issues involved to save the Centre from closure ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) There are certain differences between the authorities of the Banaras Hindu University and the University Grants Commission concerning appointment of Programme Coordinator of the Centre of Advanced Study in Metallurgical Engineering, but the Centre is not facing closure.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Steps for Revival and Profitability of MECON

*237. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering steps for the revival and profitability of the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether it is proposed to prune the administrative expenditure by making a reduction in the number of officers at the top ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) No, Sir. The performance of MECON has been steadily improving over the years. Its profits during the last three years are as follows :

(Rs. in Crores)

1984-85	12.02
1985-86	12.14
1986-87	12.97

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is at present under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

Permission to use Foreign Technology for Fertilizer Production

*238. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several fertilizer firms have sought permission to use foreign technology in their production ;

(b) the names of foreign firms which have offered technological know-how to M/s. Gujarat State Fertilizers Corporation (GSFC) for their project ;

(c) whether Government have permitted any of the foreign firms to provide technological know-how ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although six parties submitted technical and commercial offers for the ammonia project of Gujarat State Fertilizers Company Ltd. (GSFC) initially, two parties withdrew their offers subsequently. The four firms left in the field are :

(1) M/s. Haldor Topsøe of Denmark ;

(2) M/s. Humphreys & Glasgow Ltd., U.K.

(3) M/s. Linde Ab ; and

(4) M/s. UHDE GmbH of West Germany.

(c) and (d). GSFC has not submitted any proposal to the Government regarding the selection of consultants and technology. No decision has been taken in this regard.

[Translation]

Production of Citrus Fruits in Hill Areas of Uttar Pradesh

*239. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased

to state :

(a) the total annual production and per hectare production of citrus fruits (Malta-Narangi etc.) in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) whether any detailed scheme has been prepared to boost the commercial production of citrus fruits in these areas ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THRI MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) Citrus is not a forecast crop and hence official estimates of production of citrus fruits are not available.

(b) and (c). Several schemes have been taken up to promote the production of citrus fruits in the hill areas. The National Horticulture Board has launched a Project for production and supply of quality planting material of fruit trees including citrus.

The State Farms Corporation of India has established Elite Progeny Orchards in Uttar Pradesh which are producing quality planting material of citrus fruits also.

The State Government has also taken up programmes for area expansion of citrus fruits.

[English]

"Action Plan on Environmental Pollution"

*240. **SHRI M.V. CHANDRA-SEKHARA MURTHY :**
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have prepared an action plan to reduce the impact on environment due to use of fossil for energy purposes ;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed action plan ; and

(c) the time by which such action plan is likely to be launched ?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :
(a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Action Plan to reduce

adverse environmental impact of coal, gas and oil based thermal plants include the following :

(i) Emission and effluent standards have been prescribed.

(ii) Action Plan for installation of pollution control devices on a time bound basis is worked out by the Task Force of the Central and the State Pollution Control Boards for each Plant.

(iii) Legal action has been taken against some major defaulting units.

(iv) Environmental guidelines for Thermal Plants have been circulated. Thermal projects are required to take environmental clearance and necessary environmental safeguards are stipulated when a project is environmentally cleared.

News-item Captioned "Tension on Kerala Coast"

*241. **SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA :**
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated 4 July, 1988 under the caption 'Tension on Kerala Coast' wherein it is stated that tension is building up along the Kerala Coast ever since the enforcement of a ban on trawling during the monsoon by the State Government ;

(b) if so, the steps Union Government propose to take to ensure that new areas are explored by trawlers ;

(c) whether Government are aware that high cost of diesel oil is the main impediment to long-distance fishing by our fleet ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to supply cheaper oil to the fishing industry ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the present ban on trawling is only within territorial waters, trawlers are free to fish in extra territorial waters.

(c) and (d). Fuel cost is an important

item entering into cost of operation of fishing vessels. Presently, deep-sea fishing trawlers approved as 100% Export Oriented Units are permitted use of duty-free high-speed diesel oil. Excise duty rebate on high-speed diesel oil is also available to fishing vessels of 13.7 M length and above fitted with engines of not less than 150 BHP. Government have also sanctioned a special quota of kerosene oil to Kerala for use by the motorised traditional craft.

Seniority of KVS Teachers Specially Recruited for North-Eastern Region

*242. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH :
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD
SINGH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Seniority List of teachers specially recruited in 1984 by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for North-Eastern region has since been finalised ;

(b) if so, whether these teachers have been given common seniority and other benefits as admissible to those teachers who were not specifically recruited for the region ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) to (c). The Seniority lists of teachers specially recruited in 1984 have not been finalised yet. However, these teachers will be placed in common seniority along with other teachers in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. These teachers are granted all the facilities available to other teachers in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan except that they cannot be transferred out of the region because it is one of the terms of their appointment. These teachers are also

not eligible to draw the Special (Duty) Allowance since this allowance is paid in the North-East to those employees having All India transfer liability and are not exempt from payment of Income-tax.

Projects Taken up Under NREP in Haryana

*243. CH. RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects taken up under the National Rural Employment Programme in the State of Haryana ;

(b) the details of the productive community assets created as a result thereof, during the year 1986, 1987 and upto June 1988 ; and

(c) the targets fixed under the programme and the achievements there against during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Work projects under National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) are finalised and approved at the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) level. Details of these projects are not received at these Central level. However, the nature of works taken up in Haryana under the programme are social forestry works, construction of Primary School buildings, rural roads, pavement of village streets, construction of field channels and main drains, irrigation khools, drinking water wells, village tanks, etc.

(b) The Community assets created under National Rural Employment Programme in Haryana during the years 1986-87 and 1987-88 are as under :

Items	Achievements	
	1986-87	1987-88
1	2	3
1. Social Forestry :		
(a) Area covered (hec.)	2337.00	522.50
(b) Trees Planted (Lakhs)	25.73	5.78

	1	2	3
2.	Drinking water wells/ponds (Nos.)	211	422
3.	Const. of village tanks (Nos.)	20	64
4.	Rural Roads (K.M.)	18.10	49.10
5.	Pavements of streets (K.M.)	226.12	222.60
6.	School/balwadi, Panchayat Ghar (Nos.)	889	535
7.	Other building works (Nos.)	474	282
8.	Sanitary latrines (Nos.)	492	614
9.	Miscellaneous works (Nos.)	209	513

Information for the first quarter of the current year ending 30-6-88 has not become available.

of employment generation and the achievements during the last three years are as indicated below :

(c) The physical targets fixed in terms

Years	Targets (In lakh mandays)	Achievement (In lakh mandays)
1985-86	11.00	14.77
1986-87	15.00	16.74
1987-88	21.34	22.15

Discovery of Ancient Fort in Chandka Elephant Project

2285. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether an ancient Fort has been discovered in the Asia's biggest Chandka Elephant Project in Orissa ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) and (b). The ancient Fort in Chandka Elephant Project

in Orissa is known to the people since nineteenth century and is a Orissa State protected monument.

Establishment of New Steel Plants

2286. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to set up some more new steel plants in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which the matter stands ;

(c) whether any private sector unit has approached Government to establish new steel project in the country ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's policy to allow private sector in steel sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration at present for setting up any more new steel plants by Government in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 16 applications for industrial licences have been received so far during 1988 for setting up of new projects for steel making and for projects for steel making and its further processing into flat rolled products for a capacity of 1 lakh tonnes per annum and above.

Government policy to allow private sector to set up new steel projects is contained in the Industrial Policy Resolution 1956. As per latest guidelines for ferrous metallurgical industries issued in February, 1988, new units for steel making for a capacity of 50,000 tonnes per annum each through electric arc furnace route are permitted in Jammu and Kashmir, hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh, North-Eastern States, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh.

Halting Implementation of Crop Insurance Schemes

2287. PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the crop insurance schemes in various States are inadequate and are being implemented in a halting manner ; and

(b) if so, whether the Centre would formulate uniform guidelines for effective and comprehensive crop insurance schemes in the States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Suitable guidelines were issued at

the time of introduction of Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme.

Amount Released to States for Development of Fish Production

2288. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount released to States so far out of the outlay of Rs. 5300.00 lakhs for Central Sector Plan for 1988-89 for development of fish production ; and

(b) the State-wise details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Rs. 522.27 lakhs upto July, 1988.

(b) A statement showing the amount released to various States during 1988-89 for development of fish production is given below.

Statement

Statewise Release of Fund for the Central Sector Plan Schemes during 1988-89 (upto July 88) for Development of Fish Production

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	Amount released during 1988-89 upto July, 88
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	56.25
Assam	4.75
Bihar	10.25
Goa	0.18
Gujarat	3.75
Haryana	2.50
Himachal Pradesh	0.25
Karnataka	16.49

1	2	1	2
Kerala	165.75	*April, 1988	6.37 (Prov.)
Madhya Pradesh	6.25	May, 1988	5.15 (Prov.)
Maharashtra	2.75	June, 1988	4.11 (Prov.)
Orissa	12.41		
Punjab	9.97		
Rajasthan	14.50		
Tamil Nadu	18.95		
Tripura	1.50		
Uttar Pradesh	10.25		
West Bengal	185.52		
Total	522.27		

[Translation]

Losses of DTC

2289. SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loss suffered by the Delhi Transport Corporation from January to June, 1988, month-wise ; and

(b) the average loss suffered during the corresponding period of last year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) The Operational loss suffered by DTC from January to June, 1988 month-wise is as under :

Month	In Rs. Crores
1	2
January, 1988	3.36
February, 1988	3.53
*March, 1988	4.46

* Operations and revenue adversely affected on account of indefinite strike by employees w.e.f. 17-3-88 onwards.

(b) Average loss during corresponding period of last year was Rs. 3.33 crores per month.

[English]

Recommendations of Export Panel on Food Processing Industries

2290. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an expert panel on Food Processing Industries has recommended complete decontrol and deregulation of the sector ;

(b) if so, the details of the other recommendations of the panel ;

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations ; and

(d) if so, the time by which these are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d). Government had constituted a Group to suggest measures for the development of the Processed Food Industry including promotion of exports. The Group has submitted its report to the Government which is under consideration.

Proposal to Enhance Central Road Fund

2291. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to enhance

the Central Road Fund on the basis of a revised formula has been finalised ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the resolution passed by Parliament on the 13th May 1988, there shall be set apart an amount not less than 5 per cent of the basic price out of the duty of customs and of excise levied on motor spirit and diesel and the accrual will be allocated by the Central Government in the following manner—

- (i) Half Per cent on administering the Central Road Fund ;
- (ii) 35½ Per cent on development and maintenance of National Highways ; and
- (iii) 64% to be utilised by the States/ Union Territories for development and maintenance of the State Roads.

Cold-Rolling of Hot-Rolled Steel

2292. SHRI MATILAL HANSDA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal for cold-rolling of Hot-rolled steel ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Cold Rolling of Hot Rolled Steel Strips/ Sheets is already being done, as per requirement of specific applications, by units in the public as well as private sector.

Achievements of Technology Mission on Oilseeds Production

2293. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the achievements of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds

production during 1987-88 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : The Mission and its partner agencies have put in considerable effort in promoting oilseeds cultivation in the country. 40 new varieties/hybrids of oilseeds have been released by ICAR ; the production of breeder seeds increased by 68% over 1985-86.

2. A special project called "Oilseeds Production Thrust Project" was introduced with 100% Central assistance to the States. The supply of seed, fertilizer, credit and other inputs, to the farmers were carefully monitored through the State Governments. Credit support to oilseed farmers through NABARD increased about six-fold.

3. Despite one of the worst droughts of the century, with excess or normal rainfall in only 40% of the meteorological sub-divisions in the country, the production of oilseeds during the year is estimated to be around 120 lakh tonnes. This compares favourably with 114.5 lakh tonnes in 1986-87, (60% normalcy) and 108.3 lakh tonnes in 1985-86, (74% normalcy).

Enrolment Under Adult Education Programme

2294. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of persons enrolled in the Adult Education Programme during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise ; and

(b) the targets fixed for the year 1988-89, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) : (a) and (b). State-ments I and II are given below.

Statement-I

No. of Persons Enrolled During Last Three Years in Adult Education Programme

S. No.	States/UTs	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88 (provisional)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	379749	411664	368027
2.	Assam	174327	331168	368100
3.	Bihar	699449	1480744	973532
4.	Gujarat	333352	431134	421938
5.	Haryana	189567	178424	212953
6.	Himachal Pradesh	40221	40017	47158
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	81941	74367	30939
8.	Karnataka	399191	414133	315415
9.	Kerala	77559	75312	43261
10.	Madhya Pradesh	783919	809225	859775
11.	Maharashtra	675280	686594	841056
12.	Manipur	54764	44698	64007
13.	Meghalaya	24882	26542	8727
14.	Nagaland	80517	16711	21429
15.	Orissa	197046	236972	227093
16.	Punjab	103312	NR	130769
17.	Rajasthan	327846	362545	412089
18.	Sikkim	14596	12289	3410
19.	Tamil Nadu	702155	831951	974106
20.	Tripura	33514	35355	47100
21.	Uttar Pradesh	777493	942243	983376
22.	West Bengal	438353	537135	506621
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	24077	31690	31689
24.	Mizoram	10867	11127	10723
25.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1725	5676	5140

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Chandigarh	3254	5251	5833
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1768	4500	4500
28.	Delhi	63774	102388	95547
29.	Goa, Daman and Diu	1658	2800	1960
30.	Lakshadweep	647	NR	773
31.	Pondicherry	16570	16723	11626
Total		6653373	8159378	8028687

Source : Quarterly State Reports for March 1986, 87 and 88.

Statement-II

Enrolment Under Adult Education Programme Enrolment Target Fixed for 1988-89

S. No.	States/UTs	Targets (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.41
3.	Assam	4.10
4.	Bihar	13.90
5.	Goa	0.10
6.	Gujarat	4.88
7.	Haryana	2.12
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.70
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.10
10.	Karnataka	3.25
11.	Kerala	1.92
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9.33
13.	Maharashtra	8.45
14.	Manipur	0.79

1	2	3
15.	Meghalaya	0.48
16.	Mizoram	0.15
17.	Nagaland	0.26
18.	Orissa	3.20
19.	Punjab	1.82
20.	Rajasthan	5.09
21.	Sikkim	0.08
22.	Tamil Nadu	10.00
23.	Tripura	0.93
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11.58
25.	West Bengal	6.72
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.10
27.	Chandigarh	0.06
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.04
29.	Daman and Diu	0.03
30.	Delhi	1.32
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03
32.	Pondicherry	0.19
Total		99.13

**Allotment of House Sites Under IRDP in
Madhya Pradesh**

2295. SHRI PARASRAM BHARD-
WAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have
received a plan from Madhya Pradesh for
allotment of house plots in favour of home-
less families under the Integrated Rural
Development Programme ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government
thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOP-

**MENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICUL-
TURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :**

(a) Under the Integrated Rural Development
Programme no plan has been received from
Madhya Pradesh for allotment of house
plots in favour of homeless families.

(b) Does not arise.

Potato Production

2296. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO
CHAVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICUL-
TURE be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the State/Union Terri-
tory in the country which has produced the
maximum potatoes in the country during

1987-88; and

(b) how the price of this crop is fixed keeping in mind the interests of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Uttar Pradesh has produced the maximum quantity of potato in the country during 1987-88.

(b) Market intervention price of potato is fixed at the request of State Governments based on their cost of production data and in consultation with the State Governments.

Excavations at Ballal Dhipi in Nadia District

2297. SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the excavation of the Ballal Dhipi in the district of Nadia has to be suspended due to shortage of funds ;

(b) the amount spent so far on this project and during the current year ; and

(c) the future programme of excavation of the site ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 4,08,614/- has been spent on the excavation at Ballal Dhipi since its commencement in 1982-83 to 1987-88.

(c) The excavations at the ancient site at Ballal Dhipi will be continued during the season 1988-89 to expose the remaining temple complex at the site.

Stoppage of Food Grain Under Drought Relief Work

2298. SHRI B.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether supply of foodgrains under drought relief work has been stopped ;

(b) if so, since when ; and

(c) the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Central Translation Bureau and National Institute of Translation

2299. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a Central Translation Bureau and National Institute of Translation of Indian Classics into other languages ;

(b) If so, the likely date by which the two organisations would start functioning and the pattern of their managements ; and

(c) whether necessary coordination with the Sahitya Akademies and similar bodies at the national level as also at the State level would be established so as to provide a coordinated effort in this regard and avoid duplication ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) to (c). Various aspects of the issues involved are under examination, with a view to take a decision in the matter.

Rehabilitation of Tribals Engaged in Jhum Cultivation

2300. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the States where Government have launched schemes for permanent settlement of tribals who are engaged in Jhum cultivation ;

(b) the State-wise allocation made for implementation of the scheme year-wise ;

(c) the number of such families rehabilitated State-wise so far ; and

(d) the State-wise amount to be released during 1988-89 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) A scheme for Control of shifting cultivation with 100% Central assis-

tance has been started in the year 1987-88 in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa and Tripura.

(b) to (d). The scheme envisages permanent settlement of selected families over a span of five years. So far 26,243 families have been identified for settlement. State-wise details of Central assistance released, allocation for 1988-89 and number of families identified is given in the Statement below.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Amount released during 1987-88 (Rs. in lakhs)	Allocations for 1988-89 (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of families selected/to be selected for rehabilitation under the scheme over a period of five years
1.	Andhra Pradesh	55.00	55.00	1486
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	65.00	135.00	2200
3.	Assam*	—	145.00	2400
4.	Manipur	87.00	175.00	3000
5.	Meghalaya	65.00	130.00	2252
6.	Mizoram	72.00	125.00	1982
7.	Nagaland	145.00	290.00	4800
8.	Orissa	208.00	340.00	6323
9.	Tripura	53.00	105.00	1800
Total		750.00	1500.00	26243

*Scheme not finalised.

[Translation]

Road Accidents in Metropolitan Cities

2301. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been continuous increase in the number of road accidents in Metropolitan Cities in the country for the last few years ; and

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in road accidents in major Metropolitan Cities during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The percentage increase/decrease in road accidents over the previous year of 1985, 1986 and 1987 in respect of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras is given below :

	Period		
	1985	1986	1987
Bombay	6.00	1.3	4.74
Calcutta	1.7	—16.00	1.15
Delhi	7.7	4.7	—4.72
Madras	—11.00	—0.3	10.59

[English]

Standard of Education in Delhi Schools

2302. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government Senior Secondary Schools in Delhi whose results of Class X and Class XII have been less than 30 per cent, between 30—50 per cent and

above ; and

(b) the details of steps taken to improve the standard of education ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) The number of Government Senior Secondary Schools in Delhi whose results of Class X and Class XII have been less than 30 per cent, between 30—50 per cent and above, is as under :

	Less than 30 per cent	Between 30—50 per cent	Above 50 per cent
Class X	65	102	390
Class XII	5	14	434

(b) Various steps such as In-service Training to teachers, incentives to schools, students and teachers showing good results have been taken by the Delhi Administration to improve the standard of education

Indo-Mongolian Co-operation in Agricultural Sector

2303. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has recently been signed with Mongolia for co operation in agricultural research ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas identified therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agreement provides for a work-plan for the study of the methodology of research and exchange of information, on the achievements of research and technology in the fields of Animal Husbandry/Plant Industry/Soil Management/Veterinary sciences and bio-preparations and Agricultural Engineering and irrigation. Exchange of germ-plasm/seed material for trial purposes and of scientists upto 120 man/days in each year, during the year 1989 and 1990, have also been provided for in work-plan.

Supply of Mother Dairy Milk in Noida

2304. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any pro-

posals to supply milk of Mother Dairy to public in NOIDA ;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been made for setting up of Mother Dairy booths ;

(c) if so, the details of locations of such booths ; and

(d) the time by which the construction work of such milk booths is likely to be started and supply of milk expected to begin through such milk booths ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (c). In addition to the six Insulated Containers of Mother Dairy which are already functioning, Mother Dairy proposes to set up milk booths at the following six locations in Noida :

1. Plot No. X-1/M-B, Sector-12
2. Plot No. C-7/M-B, Block-C, Sector-15
3. Plot No. A-323/M-B, Block-A, Sector-19
4. Plot No. 385A, Block-B, Sector-20
5. Plot No. 0-1/M-B, Block-I, Sector-27
6. Plot No. MB-1, Block-E, Sector-37

(d) Civil construction work of these milk booths is likely to start soon. It will take about six months time for completion of Civil construction. The milk supply can start there-from depending on availability of power and water supply to these booths.

[Translation]

Widening of National Highway No. 15 in Rajasthan

2305. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allotted to Government of Rajasthan during 1987-88 and 1988-89 for widening of National Highway No. 15 ;

(b) the time by which the work of

widening the above Highway will be completed ; and

(c) the length in Kilometres including the stretches of the National Highway on which the work of widening will be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Rs. 142.00 lakhs and Rs. 560.00 lakhs have been allocated during 1987-88 and 1988-89 respectively to Rajasthan State for widening of National Highway 15.

(b) and (c). About 700 km. length is targetted to be widened by 1990 subject to availability of funds.

[English]

Setting up of new food processing units

2306. SHRI K. MOHANDAS :
SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up new food processing units in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Most of the processed food industries have been delicensed subject to certain conditions and entrepreneurs are free to set up new units for the manufacture of processed foods after obtaining registration with the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals under the simplified procedure of Delicensing Registration Scheme. During the period from January, 1986 to May, 1988, 1837 approvals were accorded under the said scheme for the manufacture of processed foods including roller flour milling. State-wise details are given below :

State	No. of DLRs issued
1	
Andaman and Nicobar	1

1	2
Andhra Pradesh	70
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	103
Bihar	117
Chandigarh	3
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3
Daman and Diu	2
Delhi	1
Goa	10
Daman and Diu	11
Gujarat	58
Haryana	99
Himachal Pradesh	34
Jammu and Kashmir	60
Karnataka	73
Kerala	18
Madhya Pradesh	139
Maharashtra	192
Meghalaya	7
Nagaland	5
Orissa	45
Pondicherry	16
Punjab	71
Rajasthan	58
Sikkim	2
Tamil Nadu	124
Tripura	2
Uttar Pradesh	410
West Bengal	102
Total	1837

**Joint Venture Company for Repair of
Dredgers at Calcutta**

2307. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-
NAIK :
SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA WADI-
YAR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANS-
PORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a joint Venture Company
is proposed to be established for repair of
dredgers at Calcutta ;

(b) if so, the names of the participat-
ing Companies ;

(c) the total cost of the project ;

(d) whether Government have approved
the proposal ;

(e) whether the Dredging Corporation
of India has been assigned the task of
setting up of such repair complex ;

(f) if so, the investment proposed to be
made by D.C.I. to undertake the works of
the complex ; and

(g) whether the complex would be set
up during 1988-89 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (1) Dredging Corporation of
India (DCI), Visakhapatnam.

(2) Hooghly Dock and Port
Engineers Ltd. (HDPE), Cal-
cutta.

(3) Patel Engineering Works
(PEW). Bombay.

(4) I.H.C. Holland, Netherlands.

(c) Rs. 10 crores approximately.

(d) and (e). The final approval for the
Project has not been accorded.

(f) DCI's share in the proposed Com-
pany is Rs. 2.5 crores.

(g) The work on setting up of the
Complex will be initiated by the new com-

pany on receipt of the approval of the Cabinet.

Performance of Anganwadi Centres

2308. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem appearing in the Indian Express dated 8 July, 1988 under the caption "Anganwadi Centres cesspools of corruption" ;

(b) if so, the facts thereof ;

(c) whether these allegations hold good for such centres in other States also ; and

(d) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken to prevent such corrupt practices and make the programme really purposeful and beneficial to the concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item has alleged corruption in the appointment of certain functionaries and misappropriation of food supplied in certain Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) projects in Orissa.

The ICDS Scheme is administered through State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. All selections and appointments of ICDS functionaries, including Anganwadi Workers and helpers, and arrangements for delivery of supplementary nutrition, are made by the State Governments themselves. It is for the State Governments to issue detailed instructions in this regard and to ensure their strict compliance. The Government of India has, on its part, issued instructions and guidelines for the proper implementation of the ICDS Programme to all the States including Orissa. In the news item itself, it has been reported that the matter had been raised, and answered, in the Orissa Legislative Assembly.

(c) and (d). For ICDS projects san-

ctioned upto 31-3-1988, 1.85 lakh Anganwadi Centres have been sanctioned. Sporadic allegations do appear about the functioning of Anganwadi Centres. All such allegations, whenever they come to the notice of the Government, are referred to the concerned State Governments for detailed investigation and remedial action.

Reservation of Export Cargo for Indian Vessels

2309. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to reserve a percentage of export cargo for Indian vessels ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether such reservation would have any adverse effects on exports ;

(d) whether Government are aware of opposition to the proposal for the said reservation ; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). The proposal envisages giving 40% share of export trade for Indian shipping lines. The proposal is designed in a way as not to have adverse effect on exports. Reservations have been expressed by some quarters about this aspect and the matter is under examination.

Insurance Cover for Smuggling

2310. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : SHRI S.M. GURADDI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of an insurance cover for smuggling in India ;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that where the master of a ship is personally involved in the act of smuggling and a personal penalty is imposed on him, the amount of penalty is reimbursible by

the insurer viz, the Protection and Indemnity Groups of Shipowners ; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken against the Insurance companies for providing cover for smuggling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) There is no insurance cover for smuggling in India. Liability insurances of shipowners are covered by the Protection and Indemnity Clubs in London as there are no such P & I Clubs in India.

Where the Master of a vessel is personally involved in the act of smuggling and a personal penalty is imposed on him, the same will have to be borne by the Master himself and is not reimbursed by the Protection and Indemnity Clubs.

(c) In view of answer to (b) above, this does not arise.

Production and Export of Pepper

2311 SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether this year the pepper production is expected to fall short ;

(b) if so, the details and extent thereof ;

(c) the adverse effect thereof on export of pepper and loss of foreign exchange ; and

(d) the extent to which such a shortfall in production is likely to affect domestic requirements and how it will be met ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Since the crop-year (July-June) 1988-89 has just commenced, no estimates of pepper production for this year are available.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Schemes for Supply of Drinking Water

2312. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of Schemes for supply of drinking water in progress till 31 March, 1988 ;

(b) the number of schemes proposed to be taken up in 1988-89 ; and

(c) the details of such schemes in Gujarat and which of them require clearance of Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Supply of safe drinking water in rural areas is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Government to provide drinking water facilities in problem villages. Drinking water schemes are planned, formulated and implemented by the States. Such schemes are implemented under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme and the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Technical clearance is given by the Central Government for implementation of drinking water schemes under ARWSP. A statement showing the schemes approved during the Seventh Plan period and expenditure incurred in the first three years of the Seventh Plan is given below. The remaining schemes are at various stages of implementation.

(b) As per the Action Plan for 1988-89, scheme for coverage of 32698 problem villages fully with safe drinking water facilities will be taken up for implementation in different States/UTs in addition to the schemes for 26680 partially covered problem villages.

(c) During 1988-89, schemes for coverage of 800 problem villages (PVs) will be taken up in Gujarat Schemes for coverage of problem villages under ARWSP require clearance of Union Government. Schemes for coverage of Problem Villages under MNP do not require such approval.

Statement
Details of Approval of Schemes and Expenditure Incurred under ARWSP during the VIIIth Five Year Plan

S. No.	State/UT	Cost of approved schemes during VII Plan	Expenditure incurred during				Total
			1985-86	1986-87	1987-88		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	106.33	9.19	25.92	21.03	56.14	
2.	Assam	0.65	0.13	0.68	0.18	0.99	
3.	Bihar	45.17	8.49	17.18	13.70	39.37	
4.	Goa	77.83	11.59	17.11	20.42	49.12	
5.	Gujarat	1.05	0.18	0.23	0.25	0.66	
6.	Haryana	26.34	8.53	10.67	18.10	37.30	
7.	Himachal Pradesh	29.86	7.00	7.83	6.78	21.66	
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	32.01	7.17	8.17	12.57	27.91	
9.	Karnataka	67.94	14.81	20.12	12.81	47.74	
10.	Kerala	75.74	13.00	16.85	17.80	47.65	
11.	Madhya Pradesh	25.61	11.50	8.84	10.15	30.49	
12.	Maharashtra	88.62	26.41	30.88	34.55	91.84	
13.	Manipur	61.33	14.27	20.13	22.00	56.40	
14.		9.99	3.60	3.92	3.78	11.30	

(Rs. in crores)

15.	Meghalaya	16.67	3.64	5.92	4.79	14.35
16.	Mizoram	5.11	1.01	1.58	2.74	5.33
17.	Nagaland	14.57	5.52	3.74	2.69	11.95
18.	Orissa	39.01	9.45	12.78	13.06	35.29
19.	Punjab	23.54	4.83	7.27	6.97	19.07
20.	Rajasthan	105.91	27.50	27.36	27.67	82.53
21.	Sikkim	9.96	4.01	3.75	3.72	11.48
22.	Tamil Nadu	66.03	20.07	12.22	19.88	52.17
23.	Tripura	7.79	4.11	2.52	3.61	10.24
24.	Uttar Pradesh	329.62	35.24	42.89	49.14	127.27
25.	West Bengal	59.41	10.00	7.60	16.09	33.69
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2.27	0.11	0.62	0.23	0.96
28.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Pondicherry	0.12	0.15	0.16	0.21	0.52
30.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—
Total		1328.48	261.56	316.94	344.92	923.42

Programme to Provide Nutritive Food to Weaker Sections

2313. **SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the programme of providing nutritive food to the weaker sections particularly the children is being worked out in Maharashtra ;

(b) the number of beneficiaries covered under this programme during the last three years ;

(c) whether any assessment has been made to find out as to what extent the programme has been helpful in raising the nutritional level and also caloric intake ;

(d) if so, to what extent, and whether the increase during the last three years is on the desired expectations ; and

(e) if not, whether reasons for the failure to improve the health standard have been gone into and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Centrally sponsored Wheat-based Nutrition Programme, launched during 1986-87, beneficiaries covered during 1st and 2nd year in Maharashtra are 5.14 lakh and 6.34 lakh respectively.

(c) and (d). No separate assessment of the impact of the programme on the nutritional level has been undertaken. However, the health status of children covered under the programme has shown improvement over a period of time as indicated by (i) The percentage of severely malnourished children in the blocks covered by the Programme, as assessed by mid-arm measurement criteria has declined from 12% in March 1987 to 7% in March 1988 and (ii) Weight-wise percentage of children in malnourished grade III and IV declined from 7% in March 1987 to 5% in March 1988.

(e) Does not arise.

Sub-standard Work in Zakir Hussain College

2314. **SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a special committee was appointed by the Governing body of Zakir Hussain College to report on sub-standard work done in the construction of Science Block of the new building ;

(b) if so, the details of the sub-standard work ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to rectify the defects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In its report the Committee has pointed out certain defects in the construction work of Science Block, such as sub-standard quality of doors, improper polishing of floors, defective fixation of ceramic tiles, cracks in the walls of the second floor, improper fixation of lights and fixtures, defective exhaust fans, etc.

(c) The Governing Body which considered the report has decided to request the CPWD to get the defects removed.

Development of Areas Around Buddhist Stupas

2315. **SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Archaeological Department has any proposal to develop the area around the Buddhist Stupa/structure on the Hillock top, near Jaggaiahpet in Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

Re-Calibration of Three Wheeler Scooter and Taxi Meters

2317. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of the Three-wheeler Scooters and Taxis whose meters have been re-calibrated after the revision of fares in Delhi in January, 1988 ; and

(b) the action taken against those who have failed to get the meters re-calibrated within the stipulated period, if any, fixed by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) After the increase in fares, no recalibration of meters has been done. Instead, revised fare charts have been issued and distributed in adequate numbers.

(b) Does not arise.

Revision of Pay Scales of Staff of the Training Institutes Under ICCW

2318. SHRI A. CHARLES : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been no revision of pay scales of the staff of the Training Institutes under the Indian Council for Child Welfare, who impart training to Balsevikas (Nursery Teachers) and Anganwadi workers in various parts of the country ;

(b) whether the revision of D.A. as per Central rate was not given effect from 1 April, 1986, whereas it has been revised in September, 1982 ;

(c) whether Government have taken a decision to implement the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission in respect of the above staff also ; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay in implementing the above recommendations and for not revising the D.A. as per the Central rate after 1 April 1986 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD

DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government of India has neither prescribed any pay scales for the staff of Training Institutes nor are the staff of Anganwadi Workers Training Institutes and Balsevika Training Institutes the employees of the Central Government. These Training Institutes are run by the Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) and the ICCW has prescribed its own Pay Scales for the staff of the Anganwadi Workers' Training and Balsevika Training Institutes. Since, ICCW is a Voluntary Organisation, the recommendations of the 4th Central Pay Commission are not automatically applicable to them.

Karnataka Women's Development Corporation

2319 SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Women's Development Corporation was set up in Karnataka with a share capital of Rs. 5 crore ;

(b) whether the above said corporation has requested the Union Government for a grant of Rs 1 crore during 1988-89 ; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any decision to release the grant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Central Government's contribution to the share capital of the Karnataka Women's Development Corporation can be made after the Chairman and half the number of non-official Directors on the Board subject to a minimum of three are

appointed in accordance with the guidelines of the Centrally sponsored scheme for assisting State women's development corporations.

Panchayati Raj System in States

2320. SHRI SHIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States where Panchayati Raj system is working ;

(b) whether Government have a proposal for the revival of the Panchayati Raj system in all the States ;

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to be revived during the current financial year ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). All the States excepting Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland and the Union Territories excepting Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have Panchayati Raj system with varying degrees of powers and functions. The Union Government have been impressing on the State Governments on the need to hold timely elections to these bodies and give them adequate powers and functions so that they become vibrant instruments of popular participation in the development process.

In Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, there are traditional tribal councils/village councils. In Pondicherry though the Panchayati Raj Act came into force in 1974, it is yet to be enforced. In the case of Lakshadweep, the Panchayati Raj Act has recently been passed and the Rules are under formulation.

Shortage of Seeds

2321 SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of groundnut seeds and also seeds for Kharif

crops ; and

(b) the steps taken for procurement and supply of seeds with high germination value ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is some shortage of seeds of oilseeds including groundnut, pulses, paddy, maize, jowar, cotton and jute.

(b) The State Governments were advised to make arrangements by procuring good quality seeds after duly testing for germination, etc.

Floods in Bihar

2322. SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to recent floods more than six lakh people have been affected in Bihar State ;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have sent a Central team to assess the damage caused by the floods ;

(c) whether Union Government have so far provided any kind of assistance to the State Government of Bihar to meet the situation ; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Explosion in Bokaro Steel Plant

2323. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the "Jansatta" dated 19 July, 1988 under the caption "Bokaro Plant ki durghatna mein aath mare, char ghayal" ;

(b) if so, whether causes of the accident have been investigated ;

(c) if so, the findings thereof ; and

(d) the amount of assistance provided by Government to the families of the deceased and injured persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. There was an accident in Blast Furnace No. 3 of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) on 18-7-1988 in which 8 persons died and four were injured. An Enquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of General Manager (Projects) of Bokaro Steel Plant which investigated the causes of the accident concluded that the accident was a case of material failure of the equipment.

(d) SAIL (BSL) have deposited the undermentioned amount as compensation with the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation as per rules, for payment to the families of the following deceased

employees :

	Amount of compensation deposited
<i>BSL Employees</i>	
S/Shri	
1. G. Murmu	Rs. 71,396.00
2. Bhola Singh	Rs. 69,008.00
3. H. Tudu	Rs. 70,216.00
<i>Contractor's labour</i>	
S/Shri	
1. S. Gope	Rs. 37,480.81
2. Satyendra Singh	Rs. 39,548.9
3. Tuleswar Rajak	Rs. 42,104.57
4. Ganesh Prasad Ram	Rs. 38,772.27
5. Md. Azam	Rs. 37,020.53

The other benefits payable to the nominees of deceased BSL employees are as under :

Benefit under	Shri G. Murmu	Shri Bhola Singh	Shri H. Tudu
Life Cover Scheme	Rs. 15,000	Rs. 15,000	Rs. 15,000
Employees' Family Benefit Society*	Rs. 36,000	Rs. 36,000	Rs. 36,000
Group Insurance*	—	Rs. 1,00,000	Rs. 1,00,000
Provident Fund (Provisional)	Rs. 37,000	Rs. 34,500	Rs. 33,000
Gratuity	Rs. 23,206	Rs. 22,333	Rs. 24,826

*Premium/Subscriptions are paid by the employees towards these schemes.

Necessary medical treatment was given to the four injured persons in the Bokaro Steel Plant Hospital. The injured employees of BSL are entitled to full basic pay and DA for the entire period of their injury leave, while the contractor's worker will be paid compensation as admissible under

Workmen's Compensation Act.

[English]

Proposal for Development of Cochin Harbour

2324. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for the development of Cochin Harbour ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Memorandum contained the following development proposals relating to Cochin Harbour :

- (i) Construction of a full-fledged Container Terminal at Q. 8—Q. 9 berths at Cochin Port,
- (ii) Replacement of Mattancherry Bridge,
- (iii) Container-Transshipment Terminal at Vallarpadam, and
- (iv) Setting up of a thermal plant near Cochin for which the Port would act as the coal handling Port.

The proposal at (i) above has been sanctioned by Government in February, 1988. As regards remaining schemes relating to development of Cochin harbour at (ii), (iii) and (iv), these schemes are not included in the 7th Five Year Plan of this Ministry and no investment decision has been taken by the Government.

[Translation]

Allocation of Amount to Uttar Pradesh under DWCRA

2325. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated to Uttar Pradesh under the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas, District-wise ;

(b) the names of the agencies through which the amount has been spent ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The information is given in the Statement-I below.

(b) The funds are released to the District Rural Development Agency of the concerned district at the rate of Rs. 10,100 per group representing the share of Government of India and UNICEF. The State Government releases Rs. 5,100 per group. When a group is formed, the amount of Rs. 15,200 is transferred by the DRDA to the Bank account of the group which is operated jointly by the Gram Sevika and the Group Organiser.

(c) Statement-II showing district-wise utilisation of amount is given below.

Statement-I

District-wise funds released under scheme of Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas in Uttar Pradesh (from 1983-84 to 1987-88)

(In Rupees)

Sl. No.	Districts	Year of sanction	Funds released by Government of India (Central and UNICEF share)	Release by State Government as reported by them
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Basti	1983-84	31,57,700	24,88,500
2.	Banda	1983-84	32,18,700	19,36,300

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Sultanpur	1983-84	25,92,600	20,60,300
4.	Etawah	1983-84	22,55,750	22,85,000
5.	Deoria	1983-84	43,98,450	22,85,000
6.	Allahabad	1986-87	10,10,000	5,10,000
7.	Gorakhpur	1986-87	10,10,000	5,10,000
8.	Nainital	1987-88	10,10,000	5,10,000
9.	Pauri	1987-88	10,10,000	5,10,000
10.	Rae Bareli	1987-88	10,10,000	5,10,000
11.	Gonda	1987-88	10,10,000	5,10,000
12.	Shahjahanpur	1987-88	10,10,000	5,10,000
13.	Mainpuri	1987-88	10,10,000	5,10,000
Total			2,37,03,200	1,51,35,100

Statement-II

District-wise Utilisation of Amount under the Scheme of Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas in Uttar Pradesh (from 1983-84 to 1987-88)

(Rs.)

Sl. No.	District	Year of sanction	Amount utilised
1	2	3	4
1.	Basti	1983-84	23,03,000
2.	Banda	1983-84	36,00,000
3.	Sultanpur	1983-84	77,31,000
4.	Etawah	1983-84	40,34,000
5.	Deoria	1983-84	47,97,000
6.	Allahabad	1986-87	15,20,000
	Gorakhpur	1986-87	15,20,000
7.	Nainital	1987-88	—
8.	Pauri	1987-88	—

1	2	3	4
10.	Rae Bareli	1987-88	—
11.	Gonda	1987-88	—
12.	Shahjahanpur	1987-88	—
13.	Mainpuri	1987-88	—
Total			2,55,05,000

[English]

Reservation Quota of SC and ST Employees

2326. SHRI RAM SWARUP RAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employed in the Department of Fertilizers under his Ministry in different categories out of the total strength of that Ministry ;

(b) whether Government reservation quota prescribed for Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes for employment has been fulfilled in the Department of Fertilizers ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps being taken to fulfil the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) The number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes out of the total number of employees in the Department of Fertilizers group-wise, as on 31-7-1988, is as under :

Group	Total No. of employees	SCs	STs
A	28	1	—
B	96	16	1
C	108	11	7
D	50	22	—

(b) and (c). Reservation for SC/ST is with reference to vacancies which are filled up from time to time, and not with reference to any quota of posts. Recruitment to fill up vacancies in Department of Fertilizers is made either by the Department or on the basis of nominations made by Department of Personnel and Training. Vacancies reserved for SC/ST have been filled up by these categories only where recruitment has been made by the Department.

Cleaning of Rivers in West Bengal

2327. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA-MURTHY : Will the Minister of

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rs. 100 crores scheme to clean highly polluted rivers in West Bengal was launched by Government ;

(b) whether this forms a part of the Ganga Action Plan ;

(c) whether the 18 towns on the banks of Hooghly river will be saved of health hazards due to pollution ; and

(d) the number of medium and large-scale units in Calcutta, Haldia, Siliguri,

Durgapur etc., prosecuted under the Environment (Protection), 1986 and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b). There is no separate scheme to clean the highly polluted rivers in West Bengal. Under the Ganga Action Plan, 111 schemes at a total estimated cost of Rs. 109 crores have been sanctioned for pollution control of river Ganga known as Bhagirathi and Hooghly in West Bengal.

(c) Berhampore, Nabadwip, Calcutta Metropolitan District including Calcutta Municipal Corporation, Howrah Municipal Corporation and 12 other Class-I towns are covered under the Ganga Action Plan. After completion of these schemes, domestic waste water flowing into the river from these towns will be intercepted and diverted. Since on many locations along the river, the water is utilised for drinking purposes, it is expected that water quality will improve which will indirectly benefit public health. However, health hazards may be due to a variety of reasons of which pollution of the river could only be one.

(d) No medium and large unit at Calcutta-Haldia, Siliguri, Durgapur etc. have been prosecuted under the Environment Protection Act, 1986. Four public sector undertakings in West Bengal have been asked to submit their time bound programme for installation/augmentation of their effluent treatment facilities. Two private sector units have been asked to set up Effluent Treatment Plants within a time frame.

Self-sufficiency in Edible Oils

**2328. SHRI JAGANNATH PATT-
NAIK :**
SHRI H.B. PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Technology Mission on Oilseeds, entrusted with the task of making the country self-sufficient in edible oils within the foreseeable future, has proposed to Government a policy package that would include the creation of a buffer stock of oilseeds on the one hand and a dual pricing system for edible oils on the other ; and

(b) if so, the details of the policy in

this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) and (b). The Technology Mission on Oilseeds has submitted a proposal for an integrated policy on oilseeds production, import, distribution and pricing for accelerating self reliance. The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Training Camps Held at All India Level

2329. SHRI CHOWDHARY AKHTAR HASAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a part of new education policy, NCERT has drawn up a training programme for training 25 lakh teachers during 1988-90 ;

(b) if so, the number of coaching camps arranged and the number of teachers given training ;

(c) the amount spent on the training camps ; and

(d) whether the objective of these training programmes have been achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAH) : (a) Pursuant to the National Policy on Education, 1986, it is intended to orient approximately 10 lakh teachers, through NCERT during 1988-90.

(b) The above coverage would be achieved, by organising approximately 10,000 orientation camps in each of the two years. Approximately 5 lakh teachers are to be covered under this programme each year.

(c) A sum of Rs. 9,96,16,843/- had been released by NCERT upto 31-7-1988, for organisation of orientation camps, during the year 1988-89.

(d) Based on a sample survey, a review

of the programme was done in 1987-88, which showed that the qualitative objective of generating awareness among teachers about the major thrusts of the National Policy on Education, 1986, had been achieved.

[English]

Grants to Universities in Orissa

2330. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the grants sanctioned to Utkal, Sambalpur and Berhampur Universities of Orissa under the Seventh Plan, so far ;

(b) the purposes for which the grants have been provided and how much has been spent for different purposes, University-wise ;

(c) whether any fund has been diverted from one head to another ; and

(d) if so, whether the permission of the University Grants Commission was obtained in this connection, University-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) : (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.

(See columns 89—92).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Unused Books Lying with NCERT

2331. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :
SHRI NARSING SURYA-
VANSI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the books worth lakhs of rupees lying unused in the godowns of the National Council of Educational Research and Training has been adversely commented by the Comptroller and Auditor General in his report for the year ended 31 March,

1987 ;

(b) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has commented on other aspects of functioning of NCERT also ;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to put the books lying in the godowns to proper use ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Comptroller and Auditor General's Report has commented upon obsolete books lying in the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) godown and certain other aspects of the working of the NCERT in its report of 1988 (year ending March, 1987). Necessary follow-up action has been initiated.

(d) A Committee of officers, set up by the National Council of Educational Research and Training to review the position of such textbooks has recommended that the books, which cannot be used in the school system, may be disposed off. Necessary steps have been initiated to dispose off the books.

[Translation]

Supply of High Yield Seeds of Oilseeds

2332. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have supplied high yield seeds of oilseeds to farmers for increasing the production of oil-seeds ;

(b) if so, the rate at which such oilseeds have been supplied to the farmers of Uttar Pradesh ; and

(c) if not, the detailed reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The Government of India does not supply any seeds to the States.

Statement

Utkal University

Sl. No.	Purpose	Grants Allocated	Grants Released	Grants Utilised
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Books and Journals	15.00 Lakhs	15.00 Lakhs	5.00 Lakhs
2.	Equipment	50.00 Lakhs	49.00 Lakhs	9.00 Lakhs
3.	Staff	50.05 Lakhs	40.00 Lakhs	40.00 Lakhs
4.	Building	79.10 Lakhs	21.00 Lakhs	—
5.	Miscellaneous	6.05 Lakhs	—	—
		200.20 Lakhs	125.00 Lakhs	54.00 Lakhs
<i>Sambalpur University</i>				
1.	Books and Journals	26.60 Lakhs	25.60 Lakhs	12.60 Lakhs
2.	Equipments	57.76 Lakhs	55.76 Lakhs	12.76 Lakhs
3.	Staff	45.00 Lakhs	25.00 Lakhs	25.00 Lakhs
4.	Building	33.52 Lakhs	2.40 Lakhs	2.40 Lakhs
5.	Miscellaneous	4.33 Lakhs	1.00 Lakhs	1.00 Lakhs
		167.21 Lakhs	109.76 Lakhs	53.76 Lakhs

1	2	3	4	5
		<i>Berhampur University</i>		
1.	Books and Journals	25.37 Lakhs	25.37 Lakhs	13.00 Lakhs
2.	Equipment	50.00 Lakhs	46.00 Lakhs	6.00 Lakhs
3.	Staff	39.44 Lakhs	33.50 Lakhs	33.00 Lakhs
4.	Building	56.79 Lakhs	16.00 Lakhs	16.00 Lakhs
5.	Miscellaneous	00.50 Lakhs	—	—
		172.10 Lakhs	120.87 Lakhs	68.00 Lakhs

However, National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India, the Government of India Undertakings, supply seeds to the State Governments on receipt of firm indents subject to the availability. The National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India have supplied 12646 qtls. and 2784 qtls. of certified seeds of oilseeds during Rabi 1987-88 and Kharif 1988 respectively.

(b) The National Seeds Corporation has supplied the certified seeds of Soyabean at the rate of Rs. 1100 per qtl. ; Sunflower at the rate of Rs. 1800 per qtl. and Mustard at the rate of Rs. 1500 per qtl. to Uttar Pradesh for sowing during Rabi—1987-88 and Kharif—1988. The State Farms Corporation of India have supplied Toria certified seed to Uttar Pradesh at the rate of Rs. 1200 per qtl. ex-farm during Rabi—1987-88.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Garlic Prices

2333. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be

pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Garlic which was sold at fantastically high prices last year in various mandis has gone abegging this year and has no buyers even at ten to five per cent of the last year's prices ;

(b) the Government's estimate about the garlic yield in different States last year and this year ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central and State agencies to help the growers of garlic to obtain a fair price for their produce ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The garlic prices in 1986-87 were abnormally higher due to lower production in 1985-86. Though the prices during the current year are lower than the last year, these prices are still higher as compared to normal years.

(b) The production of garlic in major States during 1985-86 and 1986-87 is given below :

('000 tonnes)

State	1985-86	1986-87
1. Bihar	5.0	5.7
2. Gujarat	15.8	13.4
3. Haryana	8.4	10.4
4. Madhya Pradesh	40.7	58.0
5. Maharashtra	25.5	29.6
6. Orissa	66.4	56.5
7. Uttar Pradesh	12.6	19.9
8. Others	15.2	12.5
All India	189.6	206.0

Similar estimates for 1987-88 are not yet available from all the States.

(c) Since the ruling market prices are at present reasonably at higher levels, there does not seem to be any need for market intervention.

R and D Wing for Increase in Groundnut

2334. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Research and Development Wing in the Ministry has made any progress in improving per hectare yield of groundnut ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ten improved high yielding varieties possessing mono/multiple resistance to one or the major pests and/or diseases have been developed in the last 2 years.

Clearance of Irrigation Projects from Maharashtra

2335. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of irrigation projects in Thana and Nasik districts of Maharashtra are held up for want of sanction from Union Government ;

(b) whether there is only 12 per cent of land under irrigation in Maharashtra as against 28 per cent in the country ; and

(c) whether Government will take into

consideration the backlog in irrigation while considering the projects received from Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) While no irrigation project is awaiting environmental clearance, ten minor and medium irrigation schemes requiring approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have not been cleared due to non-submission of requisite details.

(b) Area under irrigation in Maharashtra is 10.9% against 29.7% in the country.

(c) Each project is considered on its merit and a final decision is taken as soon as the required details are furnished by the project authorities.

Proposals for Development of Ports in Maharashtra

2336. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain proposals for development of ports have been received from Government of Maharashtra ;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the financial implication involved in the development of each port ;

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra has also moved for setting up of new ports in the State ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). The Government of Maharashtra had requested the Government of India in 1984 for financial assistance for the development of the following ports :

(Rs. in crores)

(1)	Bhagwati Bunder	15.50
(2)	Rajpuri (Agardanda and Dighi)	7.94
(3)	Redi	0.36
(4)	Dabhol	5.67

(c) Apart from the above, no other proposal has been received.

(d) Does not arise.

Special Advances for Deep Sea Fishing Vessels from SCICI

2337. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether special advances are to be made for deep sea fishing vessels from the Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Limited ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government are aware that such deep sea fishing is affecting the ecology of the oceans and depriving traditional fishermen of their jobs ;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider this matter ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER)

(a) SCICI does not make any special advances for acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels. However, term loans are provided by SCICI for acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) There is no evidence to suggest that ocean ecology has been affected by operation of deep sea fishing vessels. Moreover, deep sea fishing vessels operate beyond the area of operation of traditional fishermen. Therefore, the question of depriving traditional fishermen

of their jobs does not arise.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Production of Cotton

2338. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the production of cotton, State-wise against the target during 1987-88 ;

(b) whether the production of cotton is low ; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and steps proposed to be taken to enhance its production at a targeted level during 1988-89 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) (a) and (b). The estimates of production of cotton, State wise during 1987-88 along with targets are shown in the statement given below.

(c) The decline in the production of cotton during 1987-88 was accompanied by a reduction in the area under cotton due to adverse weather conditions.

The all India production target for cotton during 1988-89 is fixed at 93 lakh bales. In order to achieve this target, the Centrally Sponsored Intensive Cotton Development Programme is being continued on cost sharing basis in all the major cotton growing States except Tamil Nadu. Under this scheme, subsidy is being provided on production of breeder and foundation seeds, distribution of certified seeds, laying out of demonstration plots and establishment of *Kapas* grading centres.

Statement

Targets vis-a-vis Production of Cotton—1987-88

(Lakh bales of 170 kgs. each)

State	Target	Achievement (Provisional)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	7.50	5.12

1	2	3
Gujarat	20.00	9.80
Haryana	8.00	6.90
Karnataka	8.50	4.61
Madhya Pradesh	4.50	2.86
Maharashtra	18.50	14.67
Punjab	13.25	18.56
Rajasthan	5.50	2.18
Tamil Nadu	3.80	4.68
Others	0.45	0.45
All India	90.00	69.83

Demand of Oilseeds**[Translation]**

2339. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total annual demand of, the country for different varieties of oil seeds ;

(b) the extent to which the demand is met indigenously ; and

(c) how much quantity of oilseeds is imported ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The demand for a particular variety of oilseeds depends upon the relative prices of different oilseeds, consumer preferences, size of population, level of income and its distribution.

(b) The production of total oilseeds during the year 1987-88 is tentatively estimated at 118 lakh tonnes.

(c) The current policy of the Government is to import edible oils rather than oilseeds to bridge the gap between demand and supply of edible oils.

Packing and Chilling Capacity of DMS

2340. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :
SHRI RAM DHAN :
SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present augmented capacity of milk production in Delhi Milk Scheme is not being fully utilised due to inadequate packing and chilling capacity there to save the milk from turning sour ;

(b) if so, the details of the milk production, packing and chilling capacity of the Delhi Milk Scheme ;

(c) the expenditure being borne by Delhi Milk Scheme on the polythene packing of per litre milk as against the expenditure borne by it on bottle packing capacity ;

(d) whether there are so many incidents of leakages of polypacks ; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). The project for expanding the handling capacity of Delhi Milk Scheme by 1.25 lakh litres of milk per day has not yet been completed.

(c) At the prevailing levels of efficiency, the estimated expenditure per litre on the polythene film packing is about Re. 0.44 in one litre pouch, Re. 0.65 in $\frac{1}{2}$ litre pouches against Re. 0.49 in bottling.

(d) and (e). There is some incidence of leakage of pouches which is a normal phenomenon in handling milk in pouches. In order to reduce the leakage, DMS is taking preventive measures like using of good quality of film, backup rubber and other materials for packing milk in pouches.

[English]

Drought Assistance to Orissa

2341. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of the amount given as grant and adjusted against the plan allocation for the State of Orissa as drought assistance for the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : Out of the total ceiling of Rs. 59.58 crores approved for drought to Orissa Government during 1987-88, an amount of Rs. 5.47 crores has been made available for the current year 1988-89 (April to June, 1988). Further, in accordance with the existing pattern of adjustment against the plan allocation, Rs. 8.22 crores is being adjusted during 1988-89 against the ceilings of previous years.

Increase in Availability of Foodgrains Per Capita

2342. SHRI KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the per capita availability of foodgrains has increased over the past five years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) how does it compare with the per capita availability in developing as well as developed countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). The following Table shows the per capita net availability of foodgrains (cereals and pulses) in the country during the past five years :

Year	Per Capita Net Availability of Foodgrains in Grams per day (Provisional)
1983	436.4
1984	477.9
1985	453.7
1986	476.1
1987	465.5

(c) The per capita food supply (cereals and pulses) in some selected developing and developed countries as calculated by the Food and Agriculture Organisation for the period 1979-81 is as under :

Country	Per Capita Food Supply Grams/day
1	2
Ghana	195
Argentina	384
Pakistan	476
India	536
Philippines	572
Indonesia	602

1	2
Thailand	634
Bangladesh	638
U.S.A.	256
Canada	263
United Kingdom	268
France	295
Australia	314
Japan	510
Italy	513

**Admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas
Under Special Dispensation
Powers**

2343. SHRI SAMAR BRAHMA CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently decided again to grant admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas under special dispensation powers ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the grounds of broad social considerations and to accommodate cases requiring compassion, the Chairman, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has been empowered to grant admission under special dispensation.

[Translation]

Increase in Production of Sugarcane

2344. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of

Agricultural Research (ICAR) has evolved a new technique for increasing the production of sugarcane ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research an Institute of ICAR at Lucknow, has developed recently a ring method of planting for Sugarcane cultivation. In this system pits, (30 cm deep and 90 cm in diameter) are dug in a row, keeping 120 cm pit to pit spacing (centre to centre). Thus, about 7000 pits in one hectare are made. Fertilizer at the rate of 150 kg nitrogen, 80 kg phosphorus and 20 kg potash per hectare is recommended in this system. Entire quantity of phosphorus and potash and one third of nitrogen (50 kg) is incorporated in the soil before planting. While preparing the pits, 5-8 kg well rotten farm yard manure per pit is mixed with the soil before planting. In each pit, 21, three bud setts are planted. In all, four to six irrigations are given before on set of monsoon. The remaining quantity of Nitrogen (100 kg of Nitrogen) is applied in two splits, at the time of third and fourth irrigations.

This method of planting ensures less lodging and tolerance to drought. By adopting pit planting, 180 t/ha Sugarcane yield is obtained as compared to 90 t/ha in conventional method of planting.

[English]

Seizure of Wild Life Skins

2345. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge quantity of wild life skins was seized from different parts of the country other than Delhi during the last six months ;

(b) if so, the details and value of the catch ; and

(c) the action taken against the persons involved ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) to (c). Information is not readily available in the Ministry. It will be obtained and placed on the Table of the House.

Strength in Paradip Phosphate Limited

2346. **SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total strength of employees, category-wise in Paradip Phosphate Limited as on 31 March, 1985 and 31 March, 1988 vis-a-vis the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees amongst them ;

(b) the number of reserved posts carried forward as on 1 January, 1986, 1 January, 1987 and 1 January, 1988 and those reserved during the years 1986, 1987 and

1988 and the reasons for these posts not filled in these years and subsequently carried forward ;

(c) the number of reserved posts lapsed during the years 1986, 1987 and 1988 so far after being carried forward for three years as provided under the reservation rules ; and

(d) the number of reserved posts lying vacant at present and the reasons therefor and the steps taken or contemplated to fill the backlog of these reserved posts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) The total number of employees category-wise in Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) as on 31-3-1985 and 31-3-1988 and the number of employees belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes amongst them were as under :

Category	As on 31-3-1985			As on 31-3-1988		
	Total No. of employees	SCs	STs	Total No. of employees	SCs	STs
A	30	1	—	102	3	—
B	22	—	—	130	1	1
C	53	2	—	259	19	2
D	85	14	—	119	19	—

(b) The number of posts category-wise and 1-1-1988 were as under :
carried forward as on 1-1- 1986, 1-1-1987

Category	As on 1-1-1986		As on 1-1-1987		As on 1-1-1988	
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
A	8	5	8	6	13	8
B	7	3	10	5	16	8
C	8	5	15	12	20	18
D	—	8	—	9	—	9

The number of posts reserved during follows :
the years 1986, 1987 and 1988 were as

Category	During 1986		During 1987		During 1988 (Till 31-3-1988)	
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
A	—	1	5	2	—	—
B	3	2	7	4	—	—
C	17	8	12	7	—	—
D	2	1	—	—	—	—

The posts could not be filled up due to the non-availability of suitable candidates.

(c) No posts reserved for SCs/STs has either been dereserved or lapsed.

(d) The number of reserved posts for SCs and STs lying vacant category-wise as on 31-3-1988 were as under :

Category	No. of Posts	
	SC	ST
A	13	8
B	16	8
C	20	18
D	—	9

Steps have been taken to fill up the aforesaid vacancies by advertising the posts exclusively for SCs and STs.

[Translation]

Provision of Amount to Uttar Pradesh for Construction of 'Swachha Shuchalaya'

2347. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided to Uttar Pradesh during the last year for constructing "Swachha Shuchalaya" (clean latrines) in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh under the Integrated Rural Sanitation Programme ;

(b) the amount utilised by Uttar Pradesh ; and

(c) the number of rural sanitary units constructed and the details of villages covered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (c). The information for Integrated Rural Sanitation Programme in Uttar Pradesh during 1987-88 is given as under :

Sl. No.	Name of Programme	Amount provided (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount utilised	No. of rural sanitation units constructed
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP)	25.00	23.00*	2,200*

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP)	151.00	137.00	14,500
3.	National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)	151.00	137.00	14,000
Total		327.00	295.00	30,700

*The progress is upto July, 1988.

Information regarding names of villages is not monitored at the level of Central Government.

Damage to Foodgrains

2348. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether large quantity of foodgrains is damaged in the country every year ;

(b) if so, the quantity of the foodgrains so damaged and the percentage of foodgrains to the total production which goes waste in this way and the main reasons for damage ;

(c) whether Government have taken measures to protect the foodgrains from being damaged ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). There are no detailed estimates on the damage to foodgrains in the country. However, the Food Corporation of India estimates that about 0.40 to 0.64 per cent of the foodgrains handled by them are being damaged.

(c) and (d). Steps being taken to protect the foodgrain are :

(i) protection from stored grain pests through Save Grain Campaign.

(ii) Careful handling of foodgrain at all the stages by avoiding losses during transport, packing and due

to rains.

(iii) Rodent control as per the advice of expert committee by using major rodenticides which are commonly used for rodent control are Zinc phosphide, Aluminium phosphide and Anticoagulents.

(iv) These are supported by training programmes.

[English]

Fiscal Incentives to Subscribers for Encouraging Investment in Public Issues of Shipping Companies

2349. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL :
SHRI S.M. GURADDI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide several fiscal incentives to subscribers for encouraging investment in public issues floated by shipping companies ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the extent to which these incentives will help shipping companies to raise their capital ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c). An Expert Group set up to formulate and suggest fiscal incentives for attracting capital to the shipping industry has recommended various concessions to be extended to the industry under the provisions of the Indian Income-tax Act including extension of the facilities of Section 80CC.

Medium of Instruction in Universities

2350. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the medium of instruction in the Central Universities for under-graduate, post-graduate and professional education separately, university-wise ;

(b) whether the universities whose medium of instruction is English have adopted a target date for shifting to an Indian language at various levels ; and

(c) if so, the particulars thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected from the concerned Universities and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bihar's Request for Increase in Royalty Rates on Minerals

2351. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bihar has represented that the royalty it gets on the minerals obtained from the State, is inadequate ;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for revising the royalty ; and

(c) if not, how would Bihar be compensated for such loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) The royalty rates on minerals other than coal and sand for stowing have already been revised w.e.f. 5-5-87. So far no proposal from Government of Bihar for further revision of royalty on those minerals has been received.

In so far as coal is concerned, the royalty notified on 12-2-1981 is in force. The Government of Bihar had proposed that the royalty on coal should be levied on ad-valorem basis and at the minimum rates of 10% of F.O.R. sale price of coal.

(b) To consider the question of revision

of royalty rates on coal, a Study Group was constituted by the Department of Coal in November, 1984. The Study Group considered the various suggestions received and submitted its report in May, 1985. No decision has yet been taken on the report of the Study Group.

(c) Does not arise.

Loans under IRDP in West Bengal

2352. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are aware that applications for loans under Integral Rural Development Programme are not being given to applicants in West Bengal without the recommendation of Gram Panchayat pradhans ;

(b) whether the practice is within the norms framed by Union Government ; and

(c) if not, the steps Government propose to take to mitigate the hardship ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). In West Bengal, there is no bar to any intending applicant obtaining loan application forms directly from the bank. However, loan applications are filled up in camps attended by beneficiaries, block functionaries and bankers along with Panchayati Raj representatives. According to existing procedure prescribed by the State Government, the list of eligible beneficiaries are finalised, after household survey and its public display. Anyone aggrieved is given a chance to represent against selection or non-selection. Thereafter, the concerned Gram Panchayat is to sponsor cases which are sanctioned by the concerned Panchayat Samitis through its Sub Committee, in which bankers are also represented, after clearance in a joint inspection by blocks, bank and Panchayat representatives.

Need to Increase Management Efficiency and Productivity of Farmers

2353. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) in view of the fact that there is an urgent need to increase the management efficiency and productivity of farmers, particularly the small farmers, whether any corrective steps have been taken by Government in this regard ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). The steps taken by the Government to increase the management efficiency and productivity of farmers are as follows :

- (1) An agricultural extension system, popularly known as Training and Visit System of extension, has been introduced in the country to increase agricultural production and productivity. The system provides for regular visit of Village Extension Workers to the farmers and feedback of farmers problems to scientists for their solution.
- (2) The transfer of agricultural technology to farmers is also being made through the programme of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research namely, National Demonstrations, Operational Research Projects, Krishi Vigyan Kendras Lab-to-Land Programmes.
- (3) Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the small and marginal farmers are assisted through financial subsidies for investing in minor irrigation, land development and other agricultural activities ; and
- (4) The small and marginal farmers are also being assisted through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 5.00 lakh per Integrated Rural Development Block. The subsidy covers the areas of minor irrigation, distribution of minikits of improved seeds and land development.

Taking over of VISL

2354. SHRI S.M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any negotiations are going on for taking over Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited ; and

(b) if so, the progress achieved so far and the time likely to be taken in arriving at a final decision in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b), Yes, Sir. Various aspects relating to the take over of VISL by the Central Government have been discussed with the Government of Karnataka. These discussions have covered the financial concessions required to be given to VISL by the State Government and the financing institutions in order to make VISL economically viable. No final decision has so far been taken on these concessions. It is not possible to indicate firmly the date by which the matter would be decided finally.

Per Hectare Production of Wheat and Rice

2355. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether per hectare production of wheat and rice is still very low as compared to other countries ;

(b) if so, the details of per hectare production of wheat and rice in the country as well as the World average ; and

(c) the steps being taken to raise per hectare production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). The following Table gives the per hectare production of wheat and rice for India as well as World average for the years 1984 to 1986 :

Per Hectare Production of Wheat and Rice

(Kg.)

Year	India	World average
Wheat		
1984	1843	2230
1985	1870	2193
1986	2046	2340
Rice		
1984	2129	3228
1985	2329	3286
1986	2202	3271

(c) Steps being taken to raise the per hectare production of wheat and rice include the following :

- (i) Adoption of improved technology and propagation of rainfed farming technology on watershed management basis ;
- (ii) Timely and adequate supply of agricultural inputs and credit ;
- (iii) Increase in the crop intensity through double and multiple cropping ;
- (iv) Increase in coverage of area under location specific High Yielding Varieties resistant/tolerant to insect-pest and diseases and various stress conditions ;
- (v) Adoption of integrated plant protection measures over a large area ;
- (vi) Adoption of area approach in potential regions/districts for increasing productivity of various crops ;
- (vii) Assuring remunerative prices of various foodgrains to the farmers and strengthening the organisational support for purchase of foodgrains at support prices ; and
- (viii) Intensification of research efforts for making available the economic and

viable improved production technology.

Besides the above steps, the following schemes aimed at raising the production and productivity of rice and wheat and other foodgrain crops are under implementation :

- (i) Minikit Programme of Rice and Wheat including propagation of new technology ;
- (ii) Centrally Sponsored Special Rice Production Programme ; and
- (iii) Centrally Sponsored Special Food-grain Production Programme.

[Translation]

Production of Garlic, Onion and Coriander in M.P.

2356. SHRI SATYANARAYAN PAWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been good production of garlic, onion and coriander in Madhya Pradesh this year but the farmers are not getting even their cost of production ;

(b) whether there is any proposal to purchase these items from the farmers with a view to give them relief ;

(c) whether Government are also making efforts for the export of these items and if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the farmers get the remunerative price of their product and the production of these items also does not fall during the next crop season ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The official estimate of the production of garlic, onion and coriander during this year is not available. No report has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh that the farmers are not getting even their cost of production.

(b) and (d). Market intervention operations are undertaken for onions by NAFED.

(c) Yes, Sir. Promotional activities are undertaken by the Spices Board and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority.

[English]

Uniform Rate of Royalty and Taxation

2357. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the taxes are being levied on minerals by the various State Governments on the basis of royalty ;

(b) whether the policy of having uniform and a common royalty on all the minerals in India is being defeated by resorting to taxation on mineral rights ; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made by Union Government in bringing uniform rates of royalty plus taxation for mineral development and regulation ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) : (a) to (c). The Government of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, M.P., Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, U.P. and West Bengal have imposed different levies such as mineral rights tax, cess, land tax etc. Meghalaya also proposes to levy mineral cess. The levies in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar,

Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and the Mineral Rights Tax in Karnataka are related to royalty. These levies have been imposed by the State Governments in exercise of their legislative powers. Since these have an impact on the prices of mineral export and inputs affecting the price structure of various key industries it would be desirable to evolve in consultation with State Governments, a rational regime of all such levies having an impact on mineral development taking into account all the factors involved.

The Central Government while revising the rates of royalty in May, 1987 had requested the State Governments to make suitable adjustment in the rates of mineral rights tax/cess etc. which have been linked with royalty rates so that there is no increase in the total quantum of accrual of mineral rights tax/cess etc. consequent upon the revision of royalty.

Vacancies of Principals and Vice-Principals in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

2358. SHRI M. R. SAIKIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of vacancies of Principals and Vice-Principals in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan as on 1 August, 1988 ;

(b) the reasons due to which those vacancies have not yet been filled up ; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) : (a) 15 posts of Principals and 11 posts of Vice-Principals were vacant in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan on 1-8-1988.

(b) and (c). The vacancies of Principals could not be filled up due to the panels being exhausted and the vacancies of Vice-Principals could not be filled up due to some of the PGTs declining to accept promotion. Action is being taken to fill up these vacancies expeditiously.

Technology Mission on Oilseeds

2359. **SHRI H.B. PATIL :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Technology Mission on oilseeds was in favour of introducing a dual policy for edible oils and for building up a buffer stock of edible oils and oilseeds to meet any exigency ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) and (b). The Technology Mission on oilseeds has submitted a proposal for an integrated policy on oilseeds production, import distribution and pricing for accelerating self-reliance. The proposal is under consideration of Government.

Implementation of 'Jivandhara'

2360. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States where 'Jivandhara' scheme has been implemented ;

(b) whether such a scheme has been introduced in Orissa ;

(c) if so, the areas of the State where 'Jivandhara' scheme has been launched ; and

(d) the details of the works done or proposed to be undertaken in Orissa under the 'Jivandhara' scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). A scheme for construction of a million wells for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and freed bonded labourers has since been launched with effect from 1-4-88 as a sub-scheme of National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme. This scheme is being implemented in all the States except Assam, Haryana, Meghalaya,

Mizoram, Punjab, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Chandigarh and Pondicherry who have opted out of the scheme.

(c) and (d). 25,000 wells are proposed to be constructed in Orissa under the Scheme during the current year. 331 wells have been completed so far at a cost of Rs. 30.78 lakhs.

Purchase of Products by NAFED from Sirsi (Karnataka)

2361. **SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the cost of processed products purchased by NAFED from Sirsi (Karnataka) for distribution in Delhi Market ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the products could not be sold in the market being sub-standard and are lying in the godown of NAFED ;

(c) the reasons for purchase of sub-standard products from private parties of south for Delhi ; and

(d) the loss suffered by NAFED on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The cost of processed products received by NAFED in Delhi from Sirsi (Karnataka) was Rs. 96,303.58 including Excise Duty and Sales Tax.

(b) No, Sir. The sale of goods is in progress.

(c) and (d). The processed products belonging to the Kamdhenu Cooperative Dairy and Fruit Processing Society Ltd. Sirsi (Karnataka) were despatched by mistake of the Society to Delhi, instead of Madras. To avoid cost of transportation to Madras, NAFED decided to sell the goods in Delhi. NAFED has so far not incurred any loss on this account.

Norms for Teacher-Pupil Ratio

2362. **SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE

DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to evolve national norms regarding teacher-pupil ratio so that the twin strategies, namely rationalisation of existing teacher-pupil ratios and optimisation of teacher-pupil ratios, as suggested in the Report of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, can be implemented effectively ; and

(b) the efforts being made at national level for bringing about a qualitative change in the education of growing number of children ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) The National workshop organised by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) on 28-29th October, 1986, had alongwith other aspects, suggested certain norms for teaching staff for primary and upper primary stages of education. These norms are for consideration of the State/ Union Territories and are not the prescribed national norms.

(b) At the national level efforts have been made by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to support activities for qualitative improvements of education. These are :

- (i) re-orientation of the present practices of the development of instructional material with a view to making it child centred,
- (ii) re-orientation of pre-service and in-service teacher education programmes,
- (iii) reform of examinations for making them a powerful instrument of improving teaching and learning,
- (iv) provision of essential facilities to all schools and non-formal centres, education through support to programmes like 'operation black-board',
- (v) extensive utilization of mass media and educational technology ; and

(vi) participation of local communities in educational ventures.

Afforestation Programme

2363. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the targets achieved so far under afforestation programme during the year 1987-88 ;

(b) whether Government have sought scientific knowledge from USA and other countries in the matter of conservation of forests ; and

(c) if so, the forest areas in the country where such scientific technique in afforestation programme is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) Total area covered under the afforestation programme in 1987-88 is reported to be about 1.77 million hectares.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Libraries at Village Level to Encourage Adult Literacy

2364. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether to encourage programme of adult literacy Government have drawn up any scheme to set up libraries at village level ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when this scheme is going to be launched ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) and (b). A scheme of Jana Shikshan Nilayam has been formulated under the National Literacy Mission which primarily aims at institutionalising post-literacy and continuing education for the benefit of the neo-literates of adult education programme ; pass outs of non-formal education programmes and primary

schools. Main function of Jana Shikshan Nilayam would include evening classes for upgradation of literacy library service through books, journals and booklets, reading room with wall papers and newspapers; information window for securing information on developmental programmes; communication centre with community radio/TV facilities; in addition to Charcha Mandal (Group discussion); simple and short duration training programmes; sports and adventurous recreational and cultural activities.

The Scheme has been circulated to all State Governments/UT Administrations on 14th March, 1988 for implementation. Grants-in-aid has been released to the States/UTs for setting up of 10,065 Jana Shikshan Nilayams during 1987-88.

Guidelines for Anganwadi Centres under ICDS

2365. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total outlay envisaged in the Seventh Plan for the Anganwadi Centres under the Integrated Child Development Service Scheme (ICDS) State-wise; and

(b) whether any guidelines about the mode for running these centres and the selection of Anganwadi workers in the ICDS projects had been laid down by Government and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) An outlay of Rs. 520 crores had been made in the Seventh Five Year Plan for the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and for training of its functionaries. No State-wise distribution of this outlay has been made. Grants are released to State Governments each year keeping in view their estimated requirements and the funds available in the Central Budget. The "Supplementary Nutrition" component of the scheme, except to the extent gift food and assistance under Wheat Based Nutrition Programme are available, is funded from the States' own resources.

(b) Yes, Sir. The scheme is administered through the State Governments. At the time of the inception of the Scheme in 1975, guidelines were issued to State Governments inter-alia about the running of anganwadi centres and mode of selecting Anganwadi Workers. Anganwadi is the focal point for the delivery of the integrated package of services under the Scheme, catering to a population of roughly 1000 in rural and urban areas and 700 in tribal, hilly and sparsely populated areas. It is run by an Anganwadi Worker, with the help of a Helper. Both Anganwadi Worker and Helper are part-time, honorary workers and should belong to the same village locality and be acceptable to the local community. Special care should be taken in their selection so that children of Scheduled Castes and other weaker sections of the society are ensured free access to the anganwadi. It had been suggested to the State Governments that the selection of anganwadi workers might be done by a Committee consisting of the District Social Welfare Officer, the Block Development Officer (BDO), the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), if he/she is in position at the time of such selection, the Medical Officer of the Primary Health Centre, the President of the Taluka Panchayat/Block Advisory Committee, a representative of the State Social Welfare Board and any other non-officials which the State Government might consider appropriate.

[Translation]

New Improved Varieties of Oilseeds Crops

2366. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some new improved varieties of oilseeds crops have recently been identified and if so, the names thereof with soil condition therefor;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to arrange irrigation facilities also to enlighten the growers about the control of diseases to these crops so that the farmers could derive benefit of these new varieties;

(c) whether a workshop involving more than 250 specialists and scientists of the country was organised in this connection; and

(d) if so, the outcome of this workshop

and the details of expenditure incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A statement of new improved varieties for different agro-climatic conditions is given below.

(See columns 127—136).

(b) Under Technology Mission on Oilseeds, State Governments are being advised to provide irrigation facilities to oilseed growers. As a special drive, sprinkler sets for *rabi*/summer groundnut cultivation and plant protection equipments are provided through National Oilseeds Development Project. Farmers are being educated through demonstrations, distribution of technology bulletins and mass media communication like T.V., Radio, news-paper, etc. for taking timely disease control measures.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The major outcome/recommendations of the workshop were : (i) development of a new sunflower hybrid (MSFH-17), (ii) appropriate production and protection technologies of *Kharif* oilseeds, (iii) identification of promising strains for further testing, and (iv) strategy for time bound nucleus and breeder seed production. The Directorate of Oilseeds Research (ICAR) incurred an expenditure of Rs. 23,992/- for organising the Workshop.

In addition a number of varieties such as VG-18, MA-16, C-364, OG-51-1 in groundnut ; APSH-11, MSFH-1, CO-2, KBSH-1, MSFH-8, MSFH-10 and MSFH-11 in sunflower ; JSF-1 (Sweta), HUS-305, NRS-209 and APR-3 in safflower ; YSB-197-C, YSK-15, RW 4C (3-11) and RH-819 in rapeseed-mustard ; and MACS-58, PK 471, PK 472, VL Soya 2 and PK 564 in soyabean, have been developed very recently.

Training Programme in Fine Arts for Talented Rural Youth in Rajasthan

2367. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has chalked out a programme to impart training in fine arts to rural people, particularly poor ones and talented youths living in rural areas ; and

(b) if so, the areas selected in Rajasthan to introduce this programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

There is no specific scheme to impart training in fine arts to rural people, particularly poor ones and talented youths living in rural areas. The Lalit Kala Akademi an autonomous organisation fully funded by Department of Culture has a scheme for awarding fellowships in Traditional Art. Two traditional masters one at Udaipur and the other at Nathdwara were paid a fellowship of Rs. 1500/- per month to impart training in their traditional arts. Each of these masters selected five students to work under them. This programme was operative for two years upto October 1987.

[English]

Dredging Corporation of India Plan to Diversify its Operation

2368. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dredging Corporation of India has drawn up a plan to diversify its operations ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount earmarked for implementing those programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dredging Corporation of India proposes to enter into various inland dredging works like desiltation of water reservoirs and flood control works and for this purpose the Corporation has plans to procure a number of portable dredgers at a cost of about Rs. 480 lakhs.

Statement

Improved Varieties of different Oilseed Crops/Developed/Identified by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during the Last Three Years

Variety	Recommended for	Salient feature
1	2	3
Groundnut		
1. S.G. 84	Punjab	Suitable for spring cultivation (irrigated)
2. GG 2	Saurashtra region of Gujarat	Early flowering, suitable for irrigated areas in Rabi/Summer, yields higher than GAUG-I and J-11 (16 to 18% higher)
3. UF 70-103	Vidharbha and Western region of Maharashtra	Suitable for summer cultivation, gives 27% higher yield than SB-11
4. RSHY-1	Orissa and Northern Districts of Andhra Pradesh	Suitable for summer season (Irrigated), Bold kernel, gives 12% more yield than AK-12-24
5. DH 8	Transitional tract of northern Karnataka	Suitable for kharif and Rabi/Summer cultivation, tolerant to late leaf spot, possesses fresh seed dormancy of one week
6. Chitra	Uttar Pradesh	Oil content 49%, testa variegated
7. Kaushal	All India	Wide adaptation, early maturity (108-111 days), compact plant type
8. GG-11	Gujarat	Gives 14% higher yield than GAUG-10
9. M-335	Sandy soils of Punjab	Bold kernels, suitable for irrigated areas in Kharif

10.	CGC-4018	In kharif areas of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Southern Maharashtra	Foliar disease resistance, higher yielding
11.	ICGS-11	Parts of M.P., Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka	Suitable for Rabi/Summer cultivation, tolerant to bud necrosis
12.	ICGS-44	Gujarat and West Rajasthan	Suitable for Rabi/Summer cultivation gives 23% higher yield than GAUG-1
13.	ICGS-1	Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Bihar	Gives 33% higher yield than existing varieties of the region
14.	ICGS-4	In Kharif areas of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Southern Maharashtra	Foliar disease resistance, higher yielding than the local
Rapeseed-Mustard			
1.	Bhawani	Uttar Pradesh	Early (80 days)
2.	PT 30	Tarai region of Uttar Pradesh	Tolerant to alternaria blight, white rust and downy mildew diseases
3.	PT 303	Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa and Sikkim	Tolerant to alternaria blight, white rust and downy mildew diseases
4.	Bhagirathi	West Bengal and Orissa	Suitable for both rainfed and irrigated conditions
5.	Vaibhav	Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh	Suitable for rainfed conditions
6.	Vardan	Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh	Suitable for intercropping with wheat and for irrigated areas
7.	Robini	Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh	Fairly tolerant to diseases and pests
8.	Pusa Bold	Eastern India	Shattering resistant and bold seed size
9.	RH 30	Haryana	Shattering resistant, suitable for late dowing and mixed cropping, bold seed size

3

2

1

10.	RLM 514	All India	Suitable for rainfed conditions
11.	RLM 619	Punjab	Suitable for sowing after cotton
Sesame			
1.	TC 289	Punjab and Northern India	White seeds, oil content about 52%
2.	CST 785	Uttar Pradesh and Central India	Early maturity (75—80 days) suitable for Kharif season, while bold seeds
3.	RAUSS-17-4	Semi-Rabi/Summer growing conditions of Central and Northern India	Suitable for multiple cropping situations after late paddy/potato etc. in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, etc., Oil content about 51%
4.	BS 5-18-6 (G)	North-Eastern conditions particularly Orissa	Suitable for Kharif season
5.	Soma	Kerala	Suitable for paddy fallows
6.	Surya	Kerala	Suitable for paddy fallows
Niger			
1.	IGP-72	Maharashtra	Early maturity (85 days)
2.	RCR-66	Karnataka	Early maturity (80 days)
3.	GA-10	Orissa	Full season crop (90—95 days), bold seed, oil content about 40%
4.	GA-1	Orissa	Full season crop (90—95 days), bold seed, oil content 38%
5.	GA-2	Orissa	Full season crop (90—95 days), bold seed, oil content 38%

Soyabean

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|-----------------|---|
| 1. | P.K. 429 | Hills | High-yielding, black-seeded, resistant to yellow mosaic |
| 2. | PK 568 | Northern Plains | Determinate, resistant to shattering, lodging, bacterial pustules and yellow mosaic |
| 3. | SL 96 | Northern Plains | High-yielding, resistant to bacterial pustules |
| 4. | Himso 107 | Hills | Early-maturing, high-yielding |
| 5. | JS 71-5 | Madhya Pradesh | Good germination, early-maturing and high-yielding |

Linseed

- | | | | |
|----|------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Jawabar-23 | Central and peninsular region | Resistant to powdery mildew, tolerant to wilt and rust, matures in about 120 days, oil content 43% |
| 2. | Sweta | Indo-Gangetic alluvium | Resistant to rust and tolerant to powdery mildew and alternaria blight, suitable for rainfed cultivation, matures in about 130 days, oil content 44% |
| 3. | Garima | Indo-Gangetic alluvium | Resistant to rust, tolerant to powdery mildew, alternaria blight and wilt diseases, well-suited for irrigated lands, matures in about 125 days, oil content 42% |
| 4. | Shubhra | Indo-Gangetic alluvium | Resistant to rust, tolerant to alternaria blight, and moderately resistant to powdery mildew, widely adaptable to rainfed and irrigated lands, matures in about 130 days, oil content 45% |
| 5. | RLC-6 | Central and peninsular region | Multiple resistant to rust, wilt and powdery mildew diseases |

1	2	3
6. LCK-152	Indo-Gangetic alluvium	Double purpose, average seed and fibre yields 1033 and 796 kg/ha. respectively
7. DPL-21	Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, parts of Rajasthan and entire Indo-Gangetic alluvium	Double purpose, average seed and fibre yields 964 and 924 kg/ha. respectively, resistant to rust and tolerant to powdery mildew
Castor		
1. TMV 5	Tamil Nadu	Rose coloured stem, longer spike length, Capsules spiny, number of spikes per plant 4 to 6, moderately resistant to Jassids
2. SHB 18	All India	Resistant to wilt, suitable for irrigated and rainfed conditions gives 30% and 15% more yield than GAUCH-1 under respective conditions

Faculty Members Belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in IITs

2369. SHRI VIR SEN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any faculty member (Engg. Subjects) belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community in IIT, Delhi, as also any SC/ST representative in the Senate/Board of Directors ;

(b) if so, the numbers thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) to (c). There is one Professor with Electrical Engineering background belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes category in IIT Delhi. The Acts and Statutes of Indian Institutes of Technology do not provide for reservation for membership for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the Senate/Board of Governors of IIT Delhi. However, the above Professor is a member of the Senate by virtue of his position.

[Translation]

Opening of Panna National Park

2370. SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of area brought under the Panna National Park in Madhya Pradesh ;

(b) the total amount spent on rehabilitation of people displaced by this National Park ; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the flora and fauna of this National Park ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) The details of area brought under the Panna National Park are 373.54 sq. kms. in Panna district and 169.11 sq. kms. in Chattrapur district, the total being 542.65 sq. kms.

(b) So far, Rs. 1.70 lakhs have been spent on the rehabilitation of displaced people.

(c) Steps taken to protect the flora and fauna of this national park, include fire protection works, control and regulation of grazing, shifting of cattle camps outside the park area, improvement in communications through use of wireless sets, setting up of check posts and deployment of mobile 'flying' squads and personnel to protect the wildlife and the habitat.

[English]

USA's Assistance to BALCO

2371. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

a) whether the U.S.A. had offered assistance to Bharat Aluminium Company Limited ;

(b) if so, the details thereof as also terms and conditions ;

(c) the areas of BALCO where such assistance is to be utilised ; and

(d) how far BALCO's performance is likely to improve with this assistance ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) to (d). The Aluminium smelter of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) at Korba is designed to consume 16,500 units of power for producing one tonne of aluminium metal. Over the years, it has been felt necessary to modernise the smelter so as to conserve energy and to reduce production costs. With this end in view, BALCO has selected M/s Real Time Engineering (RTE) of USA to undertake a Feasibility Study at a fee of US \$ 1,92,000 for modernisation of its Smelter at Korba. The total fee of the study will be met out of the grant made available to BALCO under United States Trade Development Programme. For availing of United States Trade Development Programme Grant, the only condition is that a U.S. Firm must be contracted to perform the Feasibility Study and the payment of grant would be made directly by United States Trade Development Programme to M/s. Real Time Engineering which is a U.S. Firm.

The scope of Feasibility Study to be undertaken by RTE would cover reduction in power consumption and improvement in other operating parameters of BALCO's Smelter at Korba. The Feasibility Study will be prepared within a period of eight weeks after the signing of an agreement between BALCO and RTE of USA. The extent of improvement in performance of the smelter can be known only after the preparation of Feasibility Study Report.

Introduction of New DTC Routes vis-a-vis Services of Existing Routes

2372. SHRI SWAMI PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Transport Corporation has introduced several new routes since 1988 ;

(b) if so, the number thereof ;

(c) whether before introducing any new route from a locality, the Delhi Transport Corporation ensures that services on all existing routes are having their frequencies regularly and punctually ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). Since January 1988, 44 new routes have been introduced by the Delhi Transport Corporation.

(c) to (e). New routes are introduced taking into consideration the existing services, the demands of the localities concerned and the availability of buses with D.T.C. with due care of frequency, regularity and punctuality of existing routes.

Ganga Action Plan

2373. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some schemes had been received from West Bengal Government, Rishra Municipality under Ganga Action Plan ;

(b) if so, when those schemes were received ;

(c) the details of those schemes ;

(d) whether those schemes had been cleared ;

(e) if so, when and the details thereof ; and

(f) if not, the reasons for the delay in sanctioning the schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) Two schemes were received by the Ganga Project Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Forests from the West Bengal Government, relating to Rishra Municipality for consideration under the Ganga Action Plan.

(b) The schemes were received in 1986-87.

(c) One scheme was for Low Cost Sanitation and the second scheme was for River Front Development at six points.

(d) and (e). The Low Cost Sanitation scheme for Rishra was part of a larger scheme covering different parts of the Calcutta Metropolitan District. The scheme proposed conversion of existing dry latrines and construction of new pour Flush toilets. Since the scheme envisaged rendering the different towns of the Metropolitan area scavenger free and was not limited to riverside parts of these towns only, the Ganga Project Directorate agreed to finance 50 % of the total cost of the scheme. The West Bengal Government was to provide the other 50 % from its own or other sources. The amount sanctioned by GPD for the Low Cost Sanitation component in Rishra is Rs. 19.56 lakhs.

In regard to River Front Development, the West Bengal Government proposed such development in 158 Ghats in the Metropolitan area outside of Calcutta and Howrah Municipal areas. The scheme was formulated in five categories, namely, (a) to (e) depending on priority. On the basis of the information furnished by the West Bengal Government regarding intensity of use and the requirement of pollution abatement for each of these locations, GPD has sanctioned improvement in 27 locations. The Ghats

suggested for River Front Development in the Rishra Municipality did not satisfy the criteria for priority and as such were not included.

(f) Does not arise.

Assistance for Coconut Cultivation

2374. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assistance is provided to the States for coconut cultivation ;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-

wise ; and

(c) the total hectares of land under coconut cultivation and the production during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the requisite details is given below.

Statement

1. Details of assistance given for Coconut Development to various States/Union Territories upto 1987-88.

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Assistance given (in Rs. Lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.170
2.	Assam	3.100
3.	Bihar	3.046
4.	Goa	16.973
5.	Gujarat	3.322
6.	Karnataka	143.119
7.	Kerala	464.436
8.	Madhya Pradesh	2.583
9.	Maharashtra	5.278
10.	Orissa	26.407
11.	Tamil Nadu	68.489
12.	Tripura	9.010
13.	West Bengal	5.023
14.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2.739
15.	Pondicherry	0.195
Total		783.890

2. *Statewise area and production of Coconuts during 1984-85 to 1986-87*

	1984-85		1985-86		1986-87	
	area in '000 ha		production in million nuts			
	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production
Andhra Pradesh	47.1	194.5	47.4	195.8	48.1	198.8
Assam	7.5	52.0	8.0	54.3	8.0	54.3
Goa	22.1	106.3	22.9	106.3	22.9	106.3
Karnataka	200.5	1037.2	205.6	1062.0	207.7	1072.4
Kerala	687.5	3453.0	704.7	3377.0	683.8	3068.0
Maharashtra	10.6	99.3	7.0	81.2	7.0	81.2
Orissa	24.9	124.4	27.6	134.9	27.6	134.9
Tamil Nadu	139.9	1537.3	149.6	1494.5	171.9	1423.3
Tripura	2.7	2.1	2.7	2.1	2.7	2.1
West Bengal	15.3	169.7	17.0	186.6	17.0	186.6
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	20.8	96.6	28.7	33.8	28.7	33.8
Lakshadweep	2.8	23.5	2.8	24.0	2.8	24.6
Pondicherry	1.6	16.9	1.6	17.8	1.6	18.1
Total	1183.3	6912.8	1225.6	6770.3	1229.8	6404.4

Supply of Rice against Foodgrains under NREP and RLEGP to Kerala

2375. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received from the Government of Kerala for supply of rice against foodgrains quota under the National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme ;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A request has been received from the Government of Kerala recently for supply of rice only under NREP/RLEGP on the ground that rice is the staple food for the people in Kerala.

(c) The matter has been examined and in view of the fact that only 20% of the foodgrains allocated under NREP/RLEGP are made available in rice, it has not been possible to accede to the request of the State Government.

Continuous Built-up of Green-House Effect

2376. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have noted the conclusion of the Conference of the scientists and others from 48 countries at Toronto in Canada at the end of June, 1988 that the continuous build-up of various Green-House effect producing gases in the atmosphere is next only to the nuclear war ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for eliminating flaring of gas in oil-fields, both on-shore and off-shore and particularly, Bombay-High ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) The Government has noted the conclusions of the conference of the scientists and

others from 48 countries at Toronto in Canada held during June 27-30, 1988.

(b) The steps taken for improving utilisation and reducing flaring of gases in oil fields are as follows :

(i) Augmentation of compression facilities specially in the Western off-shore region which accounts for a major part of flaring.

(ii) In the North-Eastern Region, gas has been committed beyond the expected level of production in view of the low off take of consumers.

(iii) Fall-back consumers have been developed in the Western off-shore and on-shore regions and along the HBJ Pipeline. The fall-back consumers are given 15% discount on the basic price of gas as incentive.

As a result of these measures, the percentage of gas flare has come down from 42% in 1984-85 to 30% in 1987-88.

Foodgrains to States under NREP and RLEGP

2377. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSAIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains released under the National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme to different States during the current year so far, State-wise ; and

(b) the quantity to be released to the States during the remaining period of the current year, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). A statement indicating the quantity of foodgrains released under National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) together with the quantities likely to be released during the remaining period of the current year to different States is given below.

Statement

Quantity of foodgrains released and likely to be released during the year 1988-89 under National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme

S. No.	State/UT	NREP		RLEGP	
		Already Released (in MTs.)	Balance likely to be released (in MTs.)	Already Released (in MTs.)	Balance likely to be released (in MTs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25690	25690	2115	2115
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	220	220	147	147
3.	Assam	4130	4130	4414	4414
4.	Bihar	31200	31200	31054	31054
5.	Goa	200	200	240	240
6.	Gujarat	10020	10020	7982	7982
7.	Haryana	1730	1730	2257	2257
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1380	1380	882	882
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1865	1865	1272	1272
10.	Karnataka	15160	15160	10204	10204
11.	Kerala	8655	8655	8300	8300
12.	Madhya Pradesh	27080	27080	18322	18322
13.	Maharashtra	28655	28655	19290	19290
14.	Manipur	310	310	175	175
15.	Meghalaya	430	430	285	285
16.	Mizoram	180	180	80	80
17.	Nagaland	220	220	242	242
18.	Orissa	14260	14260	9742	9742
19.	Punjab	1830	1830	—	4790
20.	Rajasthan	9590	9590	9515	9515
21.	Sikkim	210	210	107	107

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Tamil Nadu	23560	23560	17382	17382
23.	Tripura	725	725	527	527
24.	Uttar Pradesh	43740	43740	40456	40444
25.	West Bengal	16175	16175	18261	18254
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	130	130	35	35
27.	Chandigarh	38	37	—	—
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	115	115	27	28
29.	Delhi	85	85	145	145
30.	Daman and Diu	45	45	25	25
31.	Lakshadweep	105	105	7	8
32.	Pondicherry	215	215	115	115
	All India	267948	267947	222605	227395

Biological Control of Pests

2378. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many Government units are producing biological agents for control of pests and releasing them in the country and if so, the details thereof indicating the names of units, names of insects and number released so far ;

(b) whether these biological agents are available to farmers as in Australia, United Kingdom etc. ; and

(c) whether the Institute of Commonwealth Bureau of Agriculture at Bangalore had also developed and released some insects ; and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Eleven Central Biological Control Stations have been set up in the country at Bangalore (Karnataka) ; Bhuba-

neswar (Orissa) ; Burdwan (West Bengal) ; Faridabad (Haryana) ; Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) ; Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) ; Raipur (Madhya Pradesh) ; Solan (Himachal Pradesh) ; Sriganganagar (Rajasthan) ; Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir) ; and Surat (Gujarat), with the objectives of :

—identifying useful and effective parasites and predators,

—rearing them,

—demonstrating the usefulness of biological control agents, and

—releasing them to the farmers.

They have so far released 1637.44 millions of biological control agents, details of which are given in the Statement below.

(b) The Central Biological Control Stations are supplying bio-control agents to the farmers to the extent available.

(c) The Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control, Indian Station, Bangalore identified, introduced and developed mass-multiplication techniques for exotic biologi-

cal control agents of insects and pests in potato, apple, coconut and vegetables in cotton, sugarcane, rice, maize, castor, gram, India.

Statement

Biocontrol Agents Handled by the Central Biological Control Stations along with the Names of Crops and Pests

Crops/Weeds	Pests	Potential parasites, predators and phytophagous insects
1	2	3
Sugarcane	Pyrilla	<i>Epiricania</i>
		<i>Tetrastichus</i>
	Borers	<i>Trichogramma</i> (4 species)
	Scale insect	<i>Chilocoris</i>
		<i>Pharoscymnus</i>
Cotton	Bollworms	<i>Sticholotis</i>
		<i>Trichogramma</i> (3 species)
		<i>Bracon</i> , <i>Chelonus</i> , <i>Chrysopa</i>
Rice	Stem borers	<i>Trichogramma</i> (3 species)
	Leaf folder	<i>Trichogramma</i> (3 species)
	Leafhoppers and Plant hoppers	<i>Cyrtorhinus</i>
Maize	Stem borer	<i>Trichogramma</i> (2 species)
Sorghum	Stem borer	<i>Trichogramma</i> (2 species)
Castor	Cutworm	<i>Telenomus</i>
Gram and Arhar	Pod borer	<i>Eucelatoria</i>
		<i>Chelonus</i>
		<i>Trichogramma</i> (3 species)
		Nuclear Polyhedrosis virus
Tomato	Fruit borer	<i>Eucelatoria</i>
		<i>Chelonus</i>
		<i>Bracon</i>
		<i>Trichogramma</i> (3 species)
		Nuclear Polyhedrosis virus

1	2	3
Apple	San Jose Scale	<i>Encarsia</i>
		<i>Aphytis</i>
		<i>Chilocoris</i>
	Woolly aphid	<i>Aphelinus</i>
	Codling moth	<i>Trichogramma</i> (2 species)
Coconut	Black headed	<i>Bracon</i>
	Caterpillar	<i>Elasmus</i>
		<i>Trichospilus</i>
		<i>Parasierola</i>
Water hyacinth	—	<i>Neochatina</i> (2 species)
<i>Salvinia</i>	—	<i>Cyrtobagous</i>
Parthenium	—	<i>Zygogramma</i>

Foodgrains Production

2379. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN :
SHRI B.N. REDDY .

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state :

(a) the total foodgrains production,
State-wise in the country during 1966-87 ;

(b) the target of foodgrains production
at the end of the Seventh Plan ;

(c) whether the target will be achieved ;
and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL
YADAV) : (a) Estimates of foodgrains
production, State-wise, in the country during
1986-87 are given in the Statement below.

(b) The target of foodgrains production
at the end of the Seventh Plan is 1.5 million
tonnes.

(c) and (d). The target has been fixed

on the basis of Framework Action Plan for
Foodgrains Production keeping in view the
past performance and incorporating various
measures for achieving the same.

Statement

Production of Total Foodgrains—1986-87

State	Production (Lakh tonnes)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	91.4
Assam	25.9
Bihar	108.7
Gujarat	31.0
Haryana	76.4
Himachal Pradesh	12.1
Jammu and Kashmir	14.3
Karnataka	69.1

1	2
Kerala	11.6
Madhya Pradesh	132.0
Maharashtra	71.4
Orissa	64.5
Punjab	179.9
Rajasthan	67.2
Tamil Nadu	72.9
Uttar Pradesh	299.9
West Bengal	96.6
Others	15.9
All India	1440.7

Rice Production Per Hectare

2380. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the region-wise rice production per hectare during 1986-87 and 1987-88 ;

(b) the production of rice per hectare in West Bengal during the same period ;

(c) whether Eastern Zone is lagging behind in respect of rice production per hectare ; and

(d) if so, the positive steps, if any, being taken to remove regional imbalance in this sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). The region-wise rice production per hectare during 1986-87 and 1987-88, along with corresponding information on West Bengal State is shown in the Statement below.

(c) and (d). Rice productivity in the Eastern zone was lower, as compared to the Northern and Southern regions. For increasing the productivity of rice in the Eastern region, a Centrally sponsored Special Rice Production Programme has been launched from 1985-86. A Centrally Sponsored Special Foodgrains production programme—Rice, is being implemented from this year in 13 selected States, including those in the Eastern region. In addition, a Central Sector Minikit Programme of Rice is also under implementation.

Statement

Region-wise Per Hectare Production of Rice

Region	Per hectare production (Kg)	
	1986-87	1987-88 (Provisional)
East	1197	1152
West	1067	1095
North	2951	2750
South	2159	2357
West Bengal State	1574	1656

Note : Eastern region includes Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Western region includes Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Northern region includes Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Southern region includes Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Shortage of Fertilizers

2381. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is likely to face an acute shortage of fertilizers by the turn of the century and the world fertilizer prices are also likely to turn up to an extent that would make import difficult ;

(b) the extent to which the slippages in the commissioning of three of the new gas-based plants along the HBJ pipeline have worsened the global demand-supply balance ; and

(c) Government's planning to meet this likely acute fertilizer shortage by turn of the century ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No detailed or accurate estimates have been made about the shortfalls in availability of fertilisers in the country by the turn of the century. On the basis of the existing trends of fertiliser consumption and indigenous fertiliser production, no acute shortages are anticipated.

(b) Compared to the world fertiliser production, the production of 3 gas based plants is insignificant; therefore, their slippages is not going to make any impact on the global demand and supply balance.

(c) Question does not arise.

Working of Navodaya Vidyalayas

2382. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment of the working of the institution of Navodaya Vidyalayas has been made particularly about the uplift of the students from the rural areas and their inter-regional migration ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps being taken to make this experiment a success and one of the potent factors to ensure integration of the various regions in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) to (c). The Navodaya Vidyalayas are still in the formative stage. It is, therefore, too early to make assessment of their working. The Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme envisages migration of 20% students from each Vidyalaya in different linguistic region at the stage of class IX. So far, only two Navodaya Vidyalayas established at Amravati (Maharashtra) and Jhajjar (Haryana) have reached this stage. The migration of the 20% students of these two Vidyalayas to different linguistic regions has been done during the current academic session.

Improvement of G.T. Road Passing Through U.P.

2383. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether many long stretches of the G.T. Road passing through Uttar Pradesh are in a very bad shape and need immediate strengthening and re-surfacing in view of the density of traffic passing through that oldest National Highway ;

(b) if so, the plan, if any, prepared to improve that National Highway during the current Plan and the amount earmarked therefor ; and

(c) whether all stretches of the Highway leading towards Allahabad are proposed to be repaired and strengthened before the ensuing Kumbh Mela in early 1989 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) No, Sir. Kanpur-Allahabad-Varanasi-Bihar Border section of National Highway 2 in Uttar Pradesh forms part of G.T. Road which is being maintained generally in a traffic worthy condition.

(b) 7th Five Year Plan provides for Rs. 31.20 crores for strengthening and improvements to this section of the road. There is also a provision of Rs. 41.60 crores for construction of Varanasi-Ramnagar-Mughal-sarai bypass including bridge across Ganga River.

(c) Except for the works in progress as approved under the plan programme, no special works around Allahabad have been sanctioned. Repairs to the road as required are being carried out from time to time.

Establishment of World Conservation Monitoring Centre

2384. DR. B.L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have established World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether any information on the occurrence and state of species, the distribution and status of habitats including sites has been obtained from this Centre ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Technical Education in Goa

2385. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Central scheme on technical education is in force, in the State of Goa ;

(b) if so, since when ; and

(c) the amount sanctioned to the State Government during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND

CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) to (c). The following two central schemes on technical education are in force in the State of Goa (formerly Union Territory). The years from which these schemes are being implemented are given against each :

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Scheme of Community Polytechnics | 1984-85 |
| 2. Scheme of Modernisation and Removal of Obsolescence | 1982-83 |

The total amount sanctioned to the technical institutions in the State during the last three years has been Rs. 59.50 lakhs.

Adult Education Programme in Goa

2386. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's scheme on Adult Education is being implemented in the State of Goa ; and

(b) if so, the amount spent and achievements made under the scheme in the State during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The expenditure incurred and the enrolment achieved in Goa (formerly Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu) during the last three years is given in the Table below :

Year	Expenditure		Enrolment
	Central Sector	State Sector	
1	2	3	4
(Rs. in lakhs)			
1985-86	9.20	5.71	1658
1986-87	5.95	8.72	2800

1	2	3	4
1987-88	3.34	13.06*	1960@

* Anticipated

@ Excludes Daman and Diu

**Central Scheme for Books Grants to
Primary and Middle Schools**

2387. **SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK :**
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme of
Union Government to give books grants to
Primary and Middle Schools ;

(b) if so, whether the same is in force
in the State of Goa ; and

(c) the details of the assistance given to
Goa during the last three years and the
achievements made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND
CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) to (c). Provision
of books for a small library is one of the
components of the scheme of Operation
Blackboard. The scheme was implemented
from 1987-88 and only primary schools are

covered under it. Central assistance of
approximately Rs. 2250/- per school is
available for purchase of books for school
library. An amount of Rs. 3.81 lakhs was
released to Goa for books in libraries in
169 schools covered last year.

**Development of Bhagvan Mahavir
National Park**

2388. **SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK :**
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND
FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by Government on
the development of "Bhagvan Mahavir
National Park" in Goa ; and

(b) the details of the achievements made
so far ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :
(a) and (b). Details of the amount
spent by the Central Government on the
development of "Bhagvan Mahavir National
Park' in Goa, are as under :

(i)	Compensation for acquisition of land	Rs. 11.60 lakhs
(ii)	Establishment of Wireless network	Rs. 0.30 "
(iii)	Compensation for village relocation and settlement of rights	Rs. 2.50 "
(iv)	Purchase of one jeep	Rs. 1.00 "
Total		Rs. 15.40 lakhs

Alumina Producing Plants

2389. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :**
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES
be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the plants which are
producing alumina in the country ;

(b) whether there was set back in the
production during the last year due to power
problem in certain plants and the target

fixed could not be achieved ; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to ensure
regular power supply during the current year
so that the production of alumina does not
suffer ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND
MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a)
There are six alumina plants in the country.
These are :

Name of primary aluminium producers	Alumina Plant
Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO)	Korba (Madhya Pradesh)
National Aluminium Company (NALCO)	Damanjodi (Orissa)
Hindustan Aluminium Corporation (HINDALCO)	Renukoot (Uttar Pradesh)
Indian Aluminium Company (INDAL)	Muri (Bihar)
	Belgaum (Karnataka)
Madras Aluminium Company (MALCO)	Mettur Dam (Tamil Nadu)

(b) and (c). The alumina plant of Madras Aluminium Company Limited (MALCO) suffered set back in production due to power shortage. Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has taken up with the State Government of Tamil Nadu for increasing the power availability for MALCO. Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) also suffered set back in production due to power outages. With the commissioning of their captive power plant BALCO will be insulated to a large extent from the State Electricity Board. No other alumina plant suffered any set back in production due to power problem.

Production of Rice

2390. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the quality of rice being exported and the names of the countries to whom exported ; and

(b) the steps being taken to increase the production and to improve the quality of rice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) At present, export only of Basmati rice is permitted under Open General

Licence (OGL). The major countries concerned are USSR and Middle East countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAR etc. and U.K.

(b) The production of Basmati rice could be increased with adoption of high-yielding varieties like Basmati 370 and T-3 and increasing the area under the same. Quality of Basmati rice could be improved by taking to improved varieties and milling after storage of paddy for 3—6 months after harvest.

Steps for Prawn Cultivation in Orissa

2391. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prawn Culture Development Agency has taken necessary steps for cultivating prawn in 176 hectares of salt water tanks in Orissa ;

(b) if so, when this project was taken up and the achievement made so far ;

(c) whether any further survey has been conducted for prawn cultivation in Orissa ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the number of families engaged in the cultivation of prawn ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Potato Chips, Fruit Juice, Juice Concentrate and Soft Drink Units

2392. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of units/firms which are registered to make potato chips, fruit juice

(i) *Soft drink/fruit juice etc. :*

Number of units

81

Capacity

4890.29 million bottles

594 lakh litres

(ii) *Potato chips :*

Number of units

15

Capacity

64,653 metric tonnes

(iii) *Fruit juice :*

Number of units

17

Capacity

50,225 metric tonnes

14.4 million litres

9,125 kilo litres

325.32 million bottles

(c) None of the above units is having foreign financial collaboration.

Loss Caused by Forest Fires

2393. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated annual loss of forest cover due to fire in various parts of the country during the last three years ;

(b) the measures taken to prevent and control fires in areas where forest fires frequent ; and

(c) the Government policy in regard to the development of forests in the country

and juice concentrate and soft drinks separately ;

(b) the details thereof ; and

(c) the number of the above units which have foreign financial collaboration ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) :

(a) and (b). The details of the units registered with the Directorate General of Technical Development (DGTD), Head Quarters, are as under :

and the details of assistance given to State Governments during the last one year ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) Information regarding the estimated loss per year caused by forest fire in different forests of the country during the last three years is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) There are State sector schemes and activities for protection of forests which include measures for prevention and control of fire. A Central sector pilot project has been launched since 1984 with U.N.D.P. assistance in the States of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh to devise, test and demonstrate principles and techniques of prevention,

detection and suppression of forest fires. The experience gained from the project will be made available to other States for guidance and use.

(c) The Government policy in regard to development of forests in the country is protection and augmentation of forest resources and assistance given to the State Governments include afforestation; protection of forests from illegal felling, fire and grazing; training; research; conservation of wildlife and forest eco-systems.

Guidelines Issued by MSTC Regarding Allotment of Ships for Ship-Breaking at Calcutta

2394. SHRI R.P. DAS :
SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC) has issued guidelines for allotment of ships to ship-breaking units in April, 1988 ;

(b) whether according to these guidelines further allotment of old ships to Calcutta Port for ship-breaking has been denied ;

(c) if so, whether consequently 14 ship-breaking units of Calcutta will be out of business resulting in loss of jobs to a large number of ancillary unit workers ;

(d) whether Union Government propose to reconsider the situation and withdraw the said directives/guidelines ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). MSTC's guidelines for allotment of old imported ships to ship breaking units for 1988-89 do not envisage supply of these ships to units registered at Calcutta. This policy is continuing since 1986-87.

(c) Though supply of imported ships to ship-breaking units at Calcutta is not made by MSTC they undertake breaking of Indian Flag Vessels and vessels sold by the Port

Trust and under Court orders. Hence there is no question of ship-breaking units at Calcutta going out of business or workers losing their jobs.

(d) and (e). No reconsideration of the policy of allotment of imported ships to ship-breaking units of Calcutta is necessary as Indian Flag Vessels and vessels sold by Port Trusts and under Court orders are sufficient to sustain the ship-breaking activities at Calcutta.

Recognition of "Pahari" Language

2395. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have received a demand to recognise the regional language 'Pahari' of Himachal Pradesh by the Sahitya Akademi and the Union Government ;

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon and the time by which 'Pahari' language will be given recognition ; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for promotion and development of all the regional languages including 'Pahari' in which literary works are being created on large scale and the number of persons speaking each of these regional languages is more than ten lakh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. It has been in respect of inclusion of Pahari language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India and recognition of this language by the Sahitya Akademi.

(b) As regards inclusion of Pahari language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India, a reply has been sent stating that it is the endeavour of Government to promote cultural and literary heritage of all the languages irrespective of their inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. Regarding recognition of Pahari Language by the Sahitya Akademi, a reply has been sent intimating the criteria laid down by the Sahitya Akademi for recognition of languages.

(c) The Sahitya Akademi has pro-

grammes of activities in 22 languages which include the 15 languages listed in the 8th Schedule of Constitution and English, Dogri, Maithili, Rajasthani, Manipuri, Nepali and Konkani. In 1985 the Akademi has set up a Language Development Board for taking up work for development of Indian Languages. Matching grants and incentives are given for publications and other literary activities particularly for the publication of (a) folklore, (b) translation from neighbouring languages (c) reprinting of important dictionaries and grammar. The Akademi's expenditure is incurred towards a common purpose of promotion of Indian literature in the aforesaid languages

Schools Covered under Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools Project

2396. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Secondary, Higher Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools in various States have been covered under the CLASS (Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools) project ;

(b) if so, the number of schools in each of the above categories in which CLASS project has been introduced, State-wise ; and

(c) whether any effort would be made so that this project covers at least some schools in each of the States/Union Territories, which have not been able to start this project so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A Pilot Project for Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) was launched in 1984-85 in 248 selected Secondary/Higher Secondary/Senior Secondary Schools. The teaching in schools is in class XI in States/UTs having higher secondary system (10+2) and in class X in States having 3-year secondary system. Pending finalisation of the regular programme on CLASS Project, 1701 more schools have been added on year

to year basis till 1987-88. Schools are allocated to the States/UTs in proportion to the total number of Secondary/Higher Secondary/Senior Secondary Schools located therein. No State/UT has been left uncovered by the programme. State/UT-wise allocation of schools selected during 1984-85, 85-86, 86-87 and 87-88 is given in the statement below.

(See columns 171—174).

District Centres for English Language Teaching

2397. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sanctioned and set up District Centres for English language teaching in the country as envisaged in the Programme of Action on National Policy on Education-1986 ;

(b) if so, number and the names of the District Centres, State-wise and the dates from which these have started functioning ;

(c) if not, the likely date by which all these centres would start functioning ; and

(d) the likely date by which at least one such centre would be set up in each State so as to cover all States/Union Territories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of the scheme of setting up of District Centres for English Language Teaching.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

(See columns 175-176).

(d) It is expected that by the end of the 7th Five Year Plan period more States and UTs will come forward to set up District Centres in their territories.

Statement

List of States/Union Territories Indicating the Number of Schools Allocated for Class Project during 1984-85, 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88

Sl. No.	Name of State/Union Territory	No. of Schools allocated during				Total No. of Schools
		1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	25	38	44	118
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	3	2	2	9
3.	Assam	10	21	18	34	83
4.	Bihar	11	31	31	41	114
5.	Gujarat	15	27	29	42	113
6.	Haryana	5	13	15	16	49
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6	6	9	11	32
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	8	9	16	38
9.	Karnataka	10	20	28	42	100
10.	Kerala	10	18	17	30	75
11.	Madhya Pradesh	15	44	23	33	115
12.	Maharashtra	18	44	46	66	174
13.	Manipur	2	4	3	5	14
14.	Meghalaya	2	4	3	2	11
15.	Mizoram	1	2	2	3	8
16.	Nagaland	2	4	3	2	11

17.	Orissa	10	19	25	36	90
18.	Punjab	10	24	22	31	87
19.	Rajasthan	10	24	25	32	91
20.	Sikkim	2	4	2	2	10
21.	Tamil Nadu	16	27	30	42	115
22.	Tripura	2	2	2	3	9
23.	Uttar Pradesh	27	63	51	67	208
24.	West Bengal	20	39	42	65	166
25.	Goa, Daman and Diu	2	2	2	4	10
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	3	2	2	7
27.	Chandigarh Administration	3	2	3	2	10
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	2	2	2	6
29.	Delhi Administration	20	12	12	19	63
30.	Lakshadweep	—	2	2	2	6
31.	Pondicherry	1	2	2	2	7
Total		248	501	500	700	1949

Statement

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory for which District Centres have been sanctioned	Location of the District Centre	Date from which first course started
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	15-12-1986
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Changlang	5-5-88
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair	1-8-88
4.	Delhi	Delhi	1-5-85
5.	Goa	Panaji	13-7-87
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Dharmasala	1-6-86
7.	Karnataka	Dharwad	24-2-86
8.	Mizoram	Aizwal	14-1-87
9.	Nagaland	Kohima	10-2-87
10.	Pondicherry	Mudaliarpur	1-4-87
11.	Punjab	Bhatinda	14-9-87
12.	Sikkim	Gangtok	20-7-87
13.	Tripura	Agartala	6-3-86
14.	Assam	Mirza	District Centres have also been sanctioned for these States. However, these are expected to start functioning as soon as the necessary infrastructure and facilities for running the Centres are made available by the State Governments concerned.
15.	Bihar	Muzaffarpur	
16.	Haryana	Gurgaon	
17.	Madhya Pradesh	Bilaspur	
18.	Meghalaya	Shillong	
19.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar	
20.	Rajasthan	Ajmer/Udaipur	
21.	Jammu and Kashmir	Location to be decided by the State Government.	

Central University in Himachal Pradesh

2398. PROF. NARAIN CHAND
PARASHAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received

any demand for opening a Central University in Himachal Pradesh this year ;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon ; and

(c) the time by which this Central University is likely to be sanctioned/set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to establish a Central University in Himachal Pradesh.

Losses of National Seeds Corporation

2399. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MAN-DAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Seeds Corporation has suffered a loss of Rs. 5 crores during 1987-88 ;

(b) the accumulated loss sustained by the Corporation as on 31 May, 1988 ;

(c) the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether there has been an unprecedented decline in the production and marketing activities of the Corporation for the last two years ;

(e) the value of seeds condemned in the North-East Region and the reasons therefor ;

(f) whether any inquiry has been or is

being made into the declining status of the Corporation ; and

(g) the steps taken to make it a viable public undertaking ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). As the Annual Accounts of National Seeds Corporation for the year 1987-88 are yet to be finalised, it is not possible to indicate the exact loss suffered during 1987-88 and the accumulated loss sustained upto 31st May, 1988.

(c) Some of the main reasons for losses are :

(i) Attractive prices paid to farmers.

(ii) Increase in prices of input without corresponding increase in the sale prices of seed.

(iii) Increase in fixed overhead expenses on account of general price hike and payment of D.A. and interim relief to the employee of the Corporation.

(iv) Heavy interest burden.

(v) Under utilization of infrastructural facilities created under NSP Phase-I and II due to, lack of demand because of drought condition.

(d) No, Sir. The marketing activities have not declined in the last two years as is evident from the following figures :

Year	Quantity marketed in lakh quintals	Value of seeds marketed in crores of rupees
1986-87	4.39	27.32
1987-88 (Provisional)	8.70	43.88

(e) The value of seed condemned in North-Eastern Region in 1986-87 was Rs. 25.17 lakhs.

The main reason for condemnation is rapid deterioration in quality due to high humidity problem.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) The following steps have been taken :

(i) adoption of package of scientific practices for increasing productivity ;

- (ii) improving the product mix of seeds by increasing vegetable seeds production which are relatively more profitable ;
- (iii) importing high yielding hybrids ;
- (iv) introducing economy measures like ban on recruitment etc. ;
- (v) introduction of "Quality Circle" to improve the workers of the Corporation.

Improvement of G.T. Road in West Bengal

2400. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the G.T. Road from Asansol to Howrah is in very bad shape and needs extensive repairs and re-carpeting ;

(b) if so, whether any provision has been made in the current plan to improve this road where there is very heavy traffic ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and when this work is likely to be taken up and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) N.H. No. 2 between Asansol and Calcutta is generally in traffic worthy condition. However, certain portions of the road falling within the Municipal limits, for which this Ministry is not responsible, have been damaged. There are also some damages in other sections because of rains.

(b) and (c). In Annual Plan 1988-89 there is provision for strengthening in a length of 15 Kms. at an estimated cost of Rs. 105 lakhs. Estimates for the same are being awaited from the State Government.

Merger of MECON with SAIL

2401. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (MECON) is passing through a lean period as it has not got sufficient consultancy work in hand to sustain

it at present ;

(b) whether there is any proposal to merge it with the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) ; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to make it a viable unit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No, Sir. The performance of the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants India Limited (MECON) has been steadily improving over the years. The profits for the last three years are given below :

	(Rs. in Crores)
1984-85	12.02
1985-86	12.14
1986-87	12.97

(b) No, Sir.

(c) MECON is already a viable and profitable organisation.

Funds for Children Nutrition Programme

2402. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government monitors the utilisation of funds made available by the Centre to the States for children's nutrition programme ;

(b) if so, in how many cases, during 1987 the funds were not utilised fully with the names of the State ;

(c) in how many cases, the States were put to difficulty because of late release of funds ; and

(d) whether during the last three years the coverage of the programme could be expanded and if so, State-wise break up of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN, AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINIS-

TRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :

(a) Yes, Sir. Government monitors the utilisation of funds in respect of the Centrally Sponsored Wheat-based Nutrition Programme that has a Centrally Funded Component.

(b) Unutilised balance of funds remained with the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Pondicherry. Funds to be sanctioned during 1988-89 will take into account the unutilised balances.

(c) Funds were released in time to States as per their requirements.

(d) Yes, Sir. A Statement showing the State-wise break up of the beneficiaries covered during the last three years is given below.

(See columns 183—186).

Setting up of Soyabean Processing Plant

2403 SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a soyabean processing plant in the country in collaboration with USA ;

(b) if so, the site selected for the location of the plant ;

(c) the estimated cost of the plant and whether the plant would be set up during the current financial year ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) :

(a) Government have no proposal under its consideration for setting up a soyabean processing plant in collaboration with USA.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Appointment of Retired Government Officers in MECON

2404. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES

be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the past few years many senior retired Government officers have been given appointments in the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited and

(b) if so, the number of such officers and the reasons for their appointment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA).: (a) and (b). One Senior retired Government Officer has been given appointment by the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited on part-time basis as Adviser for a period of one year to assist the Company in an Opto-electronics project in which he has proven expertise.

Environmental Clearance to Telugu Ganga Project

2405. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has fulfilled all the requirements of the Ministry of Environment and Forest for the clearance of Telugu Ganga Project ;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in clearing the Project ; and

(c) when the project is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The State Government are yet to formulate and furnish an adequate rehabilitation package for the people likely to be displaced by the project.

(c) It would be possible to process the case further for a decision only when all the requisite particulars have been received.

Kendriya Vidyalayas in Andhra Pradesh

2406. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Andhra Pradesh which have been upgraded this year ;

Statement

Details of beneficiaries covered under the Centrally Sponsored Wheat Based Nutrition Programme

S. No	Name of State/ Union Territory	1985-86			1986-87			1987-88		
		Children	Mothers	Total	Children	Mothers	Total	Children	Mothers	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	340000	80000	420000	285890	73736	359626
2.	Assam	—	—	—	99360	11040	110400	155390	28210	183600
3.	Dadra	—	—	—	2711	1000	3711	2550	882	3432
4.	Daman	—	—	—	—	—	—	1065	308	1373
5.	Goa	—	—	—	1450	343	1793	1305	320	1625
6.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	60176	14266	74442
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	59888	17459	77347	61209	17236	78445
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	26932	6228	33160	33456	7444	40900
9.	Karnataka	—	—	—	64369	9358	73727	83727	11849	95576
10.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	124926	29394	154320	150321	35370	185691
11.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	420614	93499	514113	517000	117000	634000
12.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	58352	10869	69221
13.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	670	151	821	285	100	385
14.	Orissa	161693	53897	215590	550749	143692	694441	581326	157274	738600

15. Pondicherry	—	—	—	13425	3160	16585	21349	5136	26485
16. Rajasthan	—	—	—	129871	30558	160429	113114	18857	131971
17. Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	75016	53993	129009	3034	41684	114718
18. Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	137328	32312	169640	152071	35781	187852
19. West Bengal	—	—	—	90505	21295	111800	80136	20034	100170
20. Voluntary Organisation	—	—	—	19500	3900	23400	31019	4637	35656
Total :	161693	53897	215590	2157314	537382	2694696	2462775	60093	3063768

Note : Only State Government of Orissa could start this programme in 1985-86. State Governments of Bihar and Jammu and Kashmir have not been able to start this programme during 1987-88.

(b) the details of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Andhra Pradesh which have asked for additional Post-Graduate Teachers (Biology); and

(c) whether these teachers have since been provided in those Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) Kendriya Vidyalayas at CRPF Hyderabad, Ordnance Factory Medak, Air Force Station, Hakimpet and Trimulgherry have been upgraded this year.

(b) and (c). The following Kendriya Vidyalayas in Andhra Pradesh had asked for additional Post Graduate Teachers which have been sanctioned as per norms :

1. Srijaynagar No. 1
2. Picket Secunderabad
3. Golconda No. II
4. Suryalanka
5. Guntakal
6. Sivarappali
7. Ordnance Factory Medak
8. CRPF Hyderabad
9. Trimulgherry
10. Air Force Station, Hakimpet.

Tremors in Idukki District of Kerala

2407. DR. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent earth tremors in Idukki district of Kerala ; and

(b) if so, the details of damage caused to properties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). The Government

of Kerala has reported of earth tremors in Idukki district. The details of damage caused to properties due to these are being obtained.

MARKFED Proposal to Close down Aviation Wing

2408. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether MARKFED proposes to close down its aviation wing because of the continuous losses ;

(b) if so, the comparative loss suffered by the aviation unit of MARKFED during the last three years ; (year-wise) alongwith the reasons identified for the continuous losses ;

(c) the measures taken by Government to improve the situation and the reasons for not achieving the objective ; and

(d) the number of the aircrafts proposed to be disposed of by the MARKFED and the estimated loss likely to be suffered on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (d). The question does not specify as to which State MARKFED it refers. It is presumed that the information has been sought for the MARKFED of Punjab.

2. MARKFED Agro Aviation Unit in Punjab came into being in 1971 with two Bell 47 C-5 helicopters and two UTVA, 65-S fixed wing aircrafts were later on added to the fleet. The Unit incurred losses due to non-availability of operations as also uneconomical rates of serial spray fixed from time to time, in view of escalation of operational costs.

3. To dispose of the machines, tenders were also invited but the offered rates were less than the reserved price with the result that the machines could not be sold.

4. The year-wise loss/profit incurred is as under :

1985-86	Rs. 11.37 lakh	Loss
1986-87	Rs. 8.01 lakh	Loss
1987-88	Rs. 0.01 lakh	Profit.

5. MARKFED may like to sell this unit in case an appropriate price is offered.

Scrap Requirement of Mini Steel Industry

2409. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE :
SHRI S.M. GURADDI :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of the requirement of steel scrap by the mini steel industry in the country met indigenously ;

(b) the quantity and value of annual imports of steel scrap and the gap between the demand and supply of scrap at the end of 1987 ;

(c) the comparative percentage of rise in the prices of indigenous and imported steel scrap during the last three years (till date) and its overall impact on the mini-steel industry in the country ; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the serious crisis in the mini steel industry in the country ; if so, the factors identified by Government for the economic crisis in the mini steel industry and the measures contemplated to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Approximately 45% of the total demand of scrap of the mini steel industry is expected to be available from indigenous sources in the current year.

(b) During 1987-88, orders for import of about 2.3 million tonnes of melting scrap, including Hot Briquetted Iron, at a cost of about Rs. 420 crores were placed. The entire demand for import of scrap registered with MSTC was more or less met.

(c) While the cost of indigenous and imported steel scrap increased by 12% and 24% respectively during 1985-86 to 1987-88, the selling price of billets increased by about 20% during the same period. Thus there was no adverse overall impact on mini steel industry due to increase in cost of steel scrap.

(d) A large number of mini steel plants

in the country suffer from technological obsolescence. In addition, mini steel plants have represented that they are facing problems due to shortage of power and high prices of inputs. Government have, therefore, decided to allow expansion of mini steel plants which undertake modernisation. Government have also reduced the custom duty on imported scrap by 5% ad valorem with effect from 4th December, 1986.

[Translation]

Youth Welfare Programmes in U.P.

2410. SHRI HARISH RAWAT :
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount proposed to be spent on Youth Welfare Programmes in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1988-89 ;

(b) how does it compare with the national average of the amount spent under this head ; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the allocation for Youth Welfare Programmes in Uttar Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Among the many Centrally sponsored schemes such as National Service Scheme, Nehru Yuva Kendras, Exhibition for Youth, National Service Volunteers Scheme, Training of Youth, etc. implemented by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, the grants are given to the State Government only under National Service Scheme on a prescribed rate. The expenditure on this Scheme is shared by the Central and State Governments in the ratio 7 : 5. The Central Government's share during 1988-89 for Uttar Pradesh under National Service Scheme is expected to be Rs. 108.50 lakhs for involvement of 1.20 lakhs National Service Scheme volunteers in Uttar Pradesh. 56 Nehru Yuva Kendras are working in the State of Uttar Pradesh. An amount of Rs. 2.30 lakhs for each Kendra is paid by this Department for establishment and programmes for rural youth. Under the remaining Schemes, grants are given to voluntary

organisations, etc. as and when proposals are received from them.

(b) At the national level about 11% of the total allocation made under National Service Scheme is proposed to be released to Uttar Pradesh during 1988-89.

(c) No, Sir.

Environmental Clearance of Proposals from U.P.

2411. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received proposals for clearance under the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the construction of school and college buildings in hill districts of Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the district-wise number and details thereof ; and

(c) the action taken in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The details are given in the statement below.

(See columns 193—198).

Forest Clearance of Masi-Almora-Saraikhet Road

2412. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for the construction of Masi-Almora-Saraikhet road was sent by the Uttar Pradesh Government for seeking necessary clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 ; and

(b) if so, when this proposal was received and the action taken thereon.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :
(a) No such proposal has been received from Uttar Pradesh Government. However, a proposal for construction of Masi-Gerkhet motor road, which is part of Masi-Almora-Saraikhet road was received.

(b) The proposal was received on 13-12-84 and was approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 9-10-1986.

[English]

Deep Sea Fishing

2413. SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that due to bad weather and other reasons the fishing season for deep sea fishing boats has not yet commenced ;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to initiate to give economic assistance to deep sea shrimp trawlers, in view of rising economic costs ; and

(c) whether any new incentives have been given since January 1, 1988, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) :
(a) There is no report indicating that fishing season for deep sea fishing boats has not commenced this year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No new incentives have been given since January 1, 1988. However the Deep Sea Fishing industry already enjoy the following incentives :

(i) Augmentation of deep sea fishing fleet through judicious mix of indigenous, imported and chartered fishing vessels.

(ii) Providing 33% subsidy on the cost of indigenously constructed deep sea fishing vessels.

(iii) Providing loans on soft terms by Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Limited.

(iv) Augmentation of fishery surveys and supply of information.

(v) Assistance for construction of fishing harbour at major and minor ports.

Statement			
District	Sl. No.	Proposal	Action taken
1	2	3	4
Almora	1.	Government Girls High School at Chaupati Ganai	Approved on 20-10-1982
	2.	Construction of Primary School	Approved on 25-11-1982
	3.	Construction of Government Inter College at Pali	Approved on 30-9-1986
	4.	Government Inter-College Lamgadda	Essential details sought from the State Government <i>vide</i> letter No. 8-239/82-FC, dated 24-2-88. Reply is awaited
	5.	Construction of College Building	Proposal returned to State Government on 14-10-82 for sending revised proposal
	6.	Construction of Sports field for Government Degree College, Bageswar	Approved on 9-3-1982
	7.	Construction of I.T.I.	Approved on 10-5-1983
	8.	Construction of School building	F(C) Act was not attracted State Government informed accordingly on 1-9-1982
	9.	Residential School	Approved on 6-4-1983
	10.	Construction of Government Higher Secondary School Building	Approved on 13-10-1986
	11.	Government Degree College, Syalde	Approved on 19-9-1986

1	2	3	4
Chamoli	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construction of Government Inter-College building at Chamoli 2. Hostel building for Scheduled Caste Students 3. Construction of Government Degree College building at Karanprayag 4. Construction of Government Higher Secondary School building 5. Government High School building, Paldhari 6. Government Girls Inter-College, Joshimath 7. High School Building 8. Government Polytechnic Building 	<p>Approved on 9-9-1986</p> <p>Approved on 11-7-1983</p> <p>Approved on 13-10-1986</p> <p>Approved on 26-9-1986</p> <p>Approved on 30-5-1986</p> <p>Approved on 2-6-1986</p> <p>Approved on 25-8-1986</p> <p>Rejected on 25-9-1986</p> <p>Approved on 20-12-1982</p>	
Pithoragarh	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construction of Mayalekh Inter-School Building 2. Construction of Swami Vivekanand College Building, Lohaghat 3. Construction of Building for College at Pithoragarh 4. Construction of I.T.I. 5. Construction of Playground of Government Inter-College 	<p>Rejected on 10-10-1983</p> <p>Rejected on 21-10-1986</p> <p>Approved on 23-8-1982</p> <p>Approved on 28-12-1984</p>	

6.	Construction of Government Girls Higher Secondary School Building	Proposal returned to State Government on 22-2-1985 for resubmission of fresh proposal
7.	Construction of Residential Quarters for Rajkiya Inter-College Khetikhan	Essential details sought from the State Government vide letter No. 8-47/88-FC dated 10-3-88. Reply is awaited.
8.	Construction of I.T.I. Building at Gangolihat	Essential details sought from the State Government vide letter No. 8-105/88-FC dated 28-3-1988. Reply is awaited
	Pauri Garhwal :	Essential details sought from the State Government vide letter No. 8-198/88-FC dated 3-5-1988. Reply is awaited
	Tehri Garhwal :	F(C) Act was not attracted State Government informed accordingly on 19-9-1986
	1.	Approved on 27-6-1988
	2.	Approved on 30-9-1986
	3.	

- (vi) Training of fishery operatives for manning the fishing vessels ;
- (vii) Regulation of fishing by foreign vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zone, and
- (viii) Grant of excise duty rebate on high speed diesel to fishing vessels of 13.7 M length and above fitted with engines of not less than 150 BHP.

Extinction of Gharials

2414. SHRI MANIK REDDY :
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the News item appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated 20 June, 1988 wherein it is stated that Gharials one of the three endangered species of crocodiles found in the Gangetic region are battling for survival in Satkosha Gorge Sanctuary in Orissa ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to save them from extinction ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The population of gharial in the Mahanadi River was reported to be only 7, according to a survey carried out in 1975. A gharial conservation project was taken up in

the Satkosha Gorge Sanctuary. In the last 13 years, 550 sub-adult gharial have been released in the sanctuary. According to a survey carried out in January, 1988, 25 gharial could be spotted along the Mahanadi river. The gharial have moved both upstream and downstream of the Satkosha Gorge Sanctuary, in the Mahanadi River.

(c) The steps taken to save the gharial from extinction include :

I. A special conservation programme was initiated in 1974 by the Government of India, in collaboration with the concerned State Governments, FAO and UNDP, for the conservation and rehabilitation of crocodilians in India, including the gharial under this project the most viable gharial conservation areas were identified and techniques of hatching and captive rearing of gharial were imparted to wildlife personnel.

II. Establishment of the following sanctuaries and national park which hold gharial populations
(i) National Chambal Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan (ii) Shergarh Sanctuary in Rajasthan (iii) Jawahar Sagar Sanctuary in Rajasthan (iv) Satkosha Gorge Sanctuary in Orissa (v) Son Gharial Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh (vi) Ken Gharial Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh (vii) Katarniaghat Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh (viii) Corbett National Park.

III. Re-introduction of gharial in the following protected areas :

Protected areas	Number released
1. National Chambal Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan)	1683
2. Satkosha Gorge Sanctuary (Orissa)	550

1	2
3. Corbett (Uttar Pradesh)	12
4. Katarniaghat (Uttar Pradesh)	85
5. Ken (Madhya Pradesh)	13
6. Son (Madhya Pradesh)	54
7. Jawahar Sagar (Rajasthan)	21
	2418

IV. Central financial assistance for the protection and rehabilitation of the gharial and for the conservation of

the sanctuaries and park holding gharial population so far in VII Plan, has been as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Scheme	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Captive breeding and rehabilitation of, endangered species	—	1.95	0.625
Assistance to States for development of sanctuaries and national parks holding gharial population	10.00	12.12	15.32

V. The gharial has been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which provides it full legal protection against hunting and trapping. Trade in this animal and products derived therefrom is totally banned in India. The species has also been included in Appendix-I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) which bans all international commercial trade involving the gharial or articles derived from it. The export of these commodities is also banned under the Import and Export Policy.

Shortage of Teachers for Technical Education

2415. SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHI-MALA BALI :
SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute shortage of lecturers/teachers for technical education in the country ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same and measures Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To attract and retain the best talent in the country, as teachers in the technical institutions, a National Expert Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. R.N. Dogra to look into the matter and make recommendations particularly in respect of revision of pay scales, qualifications and conditions of service of teachers in

technical institutions. The report submitted by the Committee is under consideration of the Government.

Computerisation of Steel Plants

2416. SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHI-MALA BALI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are actively considering introduction of large-scale computerisation in various plants of SAIL in a phased manner ; and

(b) if so, whether Government would find alternative employment to displaced persons due to introduction of computerisation in their units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). While SAIL are contemplating gradual introduction of computerisation in its steel plants/units in a phased manner, no dislocation of employment on account of its introduction is envisaged. Computerisation will be done through work stations spread all over the plants/units with full involvement of existing manpower appropriately trained for handling computers.

Industrial Pollution

2417. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARJ :
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have called upon public sector enterprises and large industries to set an example in pollution control by strictly abiding by environmental laws ;

(b) whether any guidelines for location of the industries have also been issued ; if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the anti-pollution measures taken by Government so far ; and

(d) the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) While reviewing the position of industrial units discharging effluents into the river Ganga, the Central Ganga Authority in a meeting held on 28-6-88 recommended that the Public Sector Undertakings should be required to submit a time bound programme for installation/augmentation of effluent treatment facilities. The concerned units and the respective Ministries/State Governments have since been asked to submit time bound programmes for implementation/upgradation of effluent treatment facilities.

(b) Yes, Sir. These include :

1. Industries shall maintain the distances as stipulated from areas listed such ecologically sensitive areas, coastal areas, major settlements etc.
2. No forest land shall be converted into non-forest activities for the sustenance of the industry.
3. No prime agricultural land shall be converted into industrial site.
4. The green belt around industry or in between two industries shall be as stipulated.
5. Land acquired shall have space for appropriate treatment plant after maximum possible reuse and recycle.
6. Each industry is required to maintain three ambient air quality measuring stations.

(c) The anti-pollution measures include monitoring of air and water quality, setting up of standards and their implementation and proper siting of industries.

(d) The outcome include—

1. A national network for water and air quality monitoring has been set up.
2. Standards for effluents and emissions from major polluting industries have been laid down for their implementation in a phased manner.

3. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the amended Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1988 have been brought into force to provide stringent measures including closure and stoppage of supply of electricity, water or any other services, etc.

Upgradation of Quality of Horticulture

2418. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to upgrade the quality of horticultural produce and to evolve strategies to capture greater share of the international market ;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ;

(c) whether the Indian horticulturists are in a dis-advantageous position and there is a need to import the latest technology for the development of horticulture ; and

(d) if so, the efforts made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Through research efforts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Agricultural Universities, some improved varieties of fruits and vegetables have been evolved. Package of practices for cultivation and post-harvest technology have also been developed. Programmes have been taken up in the Central and the State sectors to increase the availability of improved planting material.

(c) and (d). Seed has been incorporated as a high technology area in the list of industries at appendix I of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

Seeds of fruits/vegetables/flower bulbs etc. are allowed for import under Import Policy for Registered Exporters.

International Management Education Project

2419. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to launch a three-year international management education project ;

(b) if so, the main objectives of the project ;

(c) whether the United Nations Development Project assistance is likely to be made available for this project ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main objective of the project is to strengthen the ability of Managers of Indian enterprises, both public and private, to operate effectively in an international setting to meet India's growing international business operations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The estimated cost of UNDP assistance for the project is \$ 940,000. It will be available in the form of consultancies of leading foreign experts in International Management Education to India, Fellowships to Indian scholars for training/visit abroad, equipment in the form of books/journals and instruction materials, and for travel/miscellaneous cost.

Shortfall in Mineral Production

2420. SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH :

DR. G.S. RAJHANS :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of several key minerals has fallen in comparison to target fixed ;

(b) if so, the details of the minerals of which production has declined ; and

(c) the reasons for fall in production and the steps Government propose to take to boost their production ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) to

(c). The VII Plan targets and the anticipated achievement in respect of production of key minerals/non-ferrous metals as indicated in the Mid Term Appraisal of the VII Plan are as follows :

Mineral/Metal	Unit	Target (1989-90)	Anticipated achievement (1989-90)
Iron Ore and concentrate	Million tonnes	58.1	58.1
Aluminium	'000 tonnes	499	450
Copper refined	"	42.7	39.0
Zinc	"	89.0	83.0
Lead	"	27.0	27.0

It would be seen that there may not be any significant shortfall from the plan target.

The production of principal minerals for the period 1984 to 1987 is given in the statement below.

(See columns 209-210).

It would be seen that there has been an increase in the production of bauxite, chromite, copper ore, iron ore, lead concentrate, zinc concentrate, gypsum and limestone. While the decline in production on gold and dolomite is marginal, there has been an appreciable decline in production of apatite and phosphorite and barytes which is essentially due to lack of adequate demand. Government is alive to the problems of the mining industry for meeting the domestic and export demand.

Involvement of Voluntary Organisations in Rural Development in Kerala

2421. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any voluntary/private organisations are engaged in rural development activities in Kerala ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any financial assistance is

given to these organisations ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There are 151 voluntary organisations engaged in Rural Development activities in Kerala as per information available with this Department.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Financial assistance aggregating to Rs. 1.76 crores has been given to 45 such organisations by Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) for projects sponsored by the organisations under various schemes of Rural Development.

SC/ST Employees in Ministry of Steel and Mines

2422. SHRI RAM SWARUP RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes employed in the Ministry in different categories out of the total strength of that Ministry ;

(b) whether the reservation quota prescribed for SCs/STs for employment has been fulfilled in the Ministry ; and

Statement

The production of principal minerals during 1984 to 1987 are as under :

Mineral	Unit of Quantity	1984	1985	1986	1987
1. Bauxite	'000 tonnes	2093	2281	2662	2779
2. Chromite	"	459	569	630	624
3. Copper ore	"	3923	4211	4462	5139
4. Gold	Kgs.	1989	1853	1931	1864
5. Iron ore	Million tonnes	42.31	44.09	48.8	49.4
6. Manganese Ore	'000 tonnes	1147	1269	1284	1275
7. Lead (conc)	"	35	35	44	47
8. Zinc (conc)	"	86	87	90	105
9. Apatite & Phosphorite	"	889	949	667	679
10. Asbestos	"	27	30	27	27
11. Barytes	"	468	589	337	212
12. Dolomite	"	2383	2256	2208	2178
13. Gypsum	"	1268	1291	1640	1734
14. Kyanite	"	38	31	32	37
15. Magnesite	"	420	421	460	420
16. Limestone	Million tonnes	45.8	49.0	53.6	56.7
17. Steatite	'000 tonnes	345	359	379	359

(c) if not, the steps being taken to fulfil the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI

YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The number of SCs/STs presently employed in different categories in the Ministry of Steel and Mines (excluding attached and subordinate offices) is given below :

Category	Present strength	No. of employees of SCs/STs	
		S.Cs.	S.Ts.
Group 'A'	52	5	1
Group 'B' (Gazetted and Non-Gazetted)	167	18	2
Group 'C'	511	91	33
Group 'D'	169	65	12
Total :	899	179	48

(b) The prescribed quota for Scheduled Castes stands fulfilled for Groups 'C' and 'D' Categories. For Scheduled Tribes, the prescribed quota is almost fulfilled for Group 'C' Category. Quotas for other categories are not fulfilled.

(c) While filling the vacancies earmarked for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates, the guidelines laid down are followed. Liaison Officers have also been appointed to oversee the implementation of the orders of the Government in respect of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Literacy Projections Regarding Female Literacy

2423. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTY :
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) has made any projections regarding the achievement of cent per cent female literacy in various States in the country ;

(b) if so, the projections made by it, State-wise ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to step up the progress of female education in various States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Literacy Mission aims at imparting functional literacy to 80 million illiterate persons in 15—35 age-group by 1995. The focus of NLM would be on rural areas, particularly women and persons belonging to SCs/STs. All States/UTs have been advised to take the following steps to ensure longer and better coverage of women :

- (i) Mobilisation of women adult learners for the Adult Education Centres in larger number ;
- (ii) Appointment of large number of women instructors even by relaxing the minimum qualifications ;
- (iii) Making arrangement for Continuing Education of such instructors so that they are equipped as good and competent instructors ;
- (iv) Substantial women's participation

under the Maas Programme of Functional Literacy ;

- (v) Sizeable participation of women adult learners in Vocational and Technical Education ;
- (vi) Induction of women on a large scale in Mission Management ;
- (vii) Involvement of large number of voluntary agencies, especially Voluntary Agencies working for women ;
- (viii) More attention by Shramik Vidya-peeth to women workers ;
- (ix) Special orientation and training of women instructors as effective agents of promoting women's equality and empowerment ;
- (x) Designing an Adult Education Programme for women which will be linked with imparting need-based skills, upgradation of their existing skills and new income generating activities ;
- (xi) Creation and provision of opportunities for retention of literacy skills and application of this learning for improving their living conditions ;
- (xii) Setting up of cells in the State Directorate of Adult Education and State Resource Centres to plan and administer women's programme and encouraging their participation in condensed course being organised by the Central Social Welfare Board.

B.Ed. Course of Berhampur University

2424. SHRI SOMNATH RATH :
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has asked Berhampur University to stop the B.Ed. course which it offers through correspondence course ; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Berhampur University in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND

CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) and (b). The Berhampur University had sought assistance from University Grants Commission in July, 1987 for introduction of B.Ed. course through correspondence. The Commission, after considering the proposal, informed the University on June 2, 1988 that B.Ed. course should be offered only through formal, regular and face-to-face programme. The Commission has not received any further information from the Berhampur University.

Selection for Seoul Olympics

2425. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation of the Indian Olympic Association has submitted a memorandum to Government suggesting that for selection of athletes for Seoul Olympics, persons holding upto 10th position in national events should be considered as against the present norm of considering persons getting upto 6th position ;

(b) if so, the justification given by the Indian Olympic Association for their above suggestion ; and

(c) whether the Indian Olympic Association's suggestion has been accepted and if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :
(a) The Indian Olympic Association (I.O.A.) has represented to Government that the selection criteria for Olympic Games/World Championships for measurable events should be 10th place performance level of the Olympic Games/World Championship last held.

(b) The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) have stated that their recommendation was "solely based on the international recognition of 6th place by issue of diploma/certificates in place of medals and also listing of sports persons who attain 10th or lower position."

(c) No, Sir.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

2426. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission on Agriculture recommended that atleast one Krishi Vigyan Kendra be established in each district of the country ;

(b) if so, the name of the districts in which Krishi Vigyan Kendras are existing as on 31 March, 1988 ;

(c) the steps taken to set up at least one Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the remaining

districts of the country ; and

(d) the likely date by which all the districts of the country will be covered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) List is given in the Statement below.

(c) and (d). Due to paucity of funds, new Krishi Vigyan Kendras are not being established during the 7th Five Year Plan period.

Statement

State-wise District wise List of Krishi Vigyan Kendras Established upto 31-3-1988

State	Location and District of K.V.K.
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1. Santoshnagar, Hyderabad 2. Rajamundry, District East Godavari 3. Anantpur, District Anantpur 4. Rastakuntabari, Distt. Vijayanagram 5. Gaddipalli, Distt. Nalgonda 6. Amdalvalsa, Distt. Srikakulam
Arunachal Pradesh	7. Basar, Distt. Siang
Assam	8. Napam, Distt. Tejpur 9. Gossaomgaon, Distt. Kokrajhar
Bihar	10. Morabadi, Ranchi 11. Sokhodeora, Distt. Newada 12. Monghyr, Distt. Munger 13. Banka, Distt. Bhagalpur 14. Chaibasa, Distt. Singhbhum 15. Agwanpur, Distt. Saharsa 16. Sujani, Distt. Deoghar

1

2

Goa

Gujarat

Haryana

Himachal Pradesh

Jammu and Kashmir

Karnataka

Kerala

Madhya Pradesh

17. Hazaribagh, Distt. Hazaribagh
18. Ella Farm, Goa
19. Deesa, Distt. Banaskantha
20. Devgarhbaria, Distt. Panchmahal
21. Randheja, Distt. Gandhinagar
22. Waghai (Dangs) Distt.
23. Devtaj (Sujitra), Distt. Kheda
24. Shikohpur, Distt. Gurgaon
25. NDRI, Karnal, Distt. Karnal
26. Rampura, Rewari, Distt. Mohindergarh
27. Dhaula Kuan, Distt. Sirmur
28. Bajaura, Distt. Kulu
29. Malangpura, Distt. Anantnag
30. Hanumanamatti, Distt. Dharwar
31. Chethalli, Distt. North Kodagu
32. Mudigere, Distt. Chikmanglur
33. Bidar, Distt. Bidar
34. Hulkoti, Distt. Dharwad
35. Narakkal, Distt. Cochin
36. Mitraniketan, Distt. Trivandrum
37. Pattambi, Distt. Palghat
38. Ambalvayal, Distt. Wynad
39. Chindwara, Distt. Chindwara
40. Bilaspur, Distt. Bilaspur
41. Jhabua, Distt. Jhabua
42. Kasturbagram, Distt. Indore
43. Nahibagh Farm, Berasia Road, Bhopal Distt. Bhopal

1

2

Maharashtra

44. Kosbad Hill, Distt. Thane

45. Selsura, Distt. Wardha

46. Aurangabad, Distt. Aurangabad

47. Shirgaon, Distt. Ratnagiri

48. Dhule, Distt. Dhule

49. Pal, Distt. Jalgaon

Manipur

50. Lamphelpet, Imphal

Meghalaya

51. Tura, Garo Hills

Mizoram

52. Kolasib

Nagaland

53. Jharnapani, Distt. Medziphema

Orissa

54. Kaushalayagang, Bhubaneswar

55. Keonjhar, Distt. Keonjhar

56. Similiguda, Distt. Koraput

57. Baliapal, Distt. Balasore

58. Bhanjanagar, Distt. Ganjam

Pondicherry

59. Pordicherry

Punjab

60. Gurdaspur, Distt. Gurdaspur

Rajasthan

61. Fatehpur Sekhawati, Distt. Sikar.

62. Banswara, Distt. Banswara

63. Beechwal, Bikaner Distt.

64. Berigana Farm, CAZRI, Jodhpur

65. Badgaon, Udaipur

66. Jalore, Distt. Jalore

Sikkim

67. Sarmsa, Ranipul

Tamil Nadu

68. Navalur-Kuttapattu, Distt. Tiruchirapalli

69. Vivekanandpuram, Distt. Coimbatore

70. Coonoor, Distt. Nilgiris

71. Kattupakkam, Distt. Chingleput

72. Vridhachalam, Distt. South Arcot

1

2

Tripura

73. Chebri, Khowai Distt., West Tripura

74. Birchandra Nagarmanu, South Tripura

Uttar Pradesh

75. Sultanpur, Distt. Sultanpur

76. Awagarh, Distt. Etah

77. Ranichauri, Distt. Tehri Garhwal

78. Behraich, Distt. Bahraich

79. Basti, Distt. Basti

80. Dariapur Farm, Distt. Rae Bareli

81. Bharari, Distt. Jhansi

82. Vety. College, Mathura, Distt. Mathura

83. Barkacha, Distt. Mirzapur

84. IVRI, Izatnagar

West Bengal

85. Kapgari, Distt. Midnapur

86. Nimpith Ashram, Distt. 24-Parganas

87. Kakdweep, Distt. 24-Parganas

88. Ramshai, Jalpaiguri

89. Sonamukhi, Distt. Bankura.

Market Intelligence Centre at Vijayawada
A.P.

2427. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been
received for establishment of a Market
Intelligence Centre under the Market Infor-
mation Service of the National Horticulture
Board at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the decision taken in this
regard ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL
YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Market Information Centre has
already been set up at Vijayawada by the
National Horticulture Board.

(c) Does not arise.

Misuse of Comprehensive Crop Insurance
Scheme in States

2428. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scope of the compre-
hensive Crop Insurance Scheme was misused
in some States ;

(b) if so, the names of the States and
the nature of the misuse ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. During the course of scrutiny of indemnity claims under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme in Gujarat and Maharashtra, certain procedural and other irregularities in the loaning operations by the loan disbursing agencies have been noticed. The State Governments concerned have been advised to take necessary action in the matter.

Tea Plantations in Forest Land

2429. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Union Government that Orissa Government is permitting tea plantations by some private firms on the forest lands in Thuamula-Rampur area in Kalahandi district of Orissa ;

(b) whether it violates the provisions of the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 ;

(c) whether prior approval of Union Government was given for this project ; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to prevent felling of trees in Orissa ;

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Instructions have been issued to the Government of Orissa not to divert any forest land nor to fell any trees in these areas for raising commercial crops, without prior approval of Government of India as required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Navodaya Vidyalayas and Operation Black-Board

2430. DR. A.K. PATEL :
SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to

state :

(a) whether some difficulties have been reported by various States about the implementation of Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Operation Black-Board suffered any shortage of funds due to this Scheme ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the fact that the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme is in its formative stage and the Vidyalayas are mostly located in the remote rural areas in buildings offered temporarily by the State/Union Territory Administration, certain shortages in suitable teaching staff and availability of physical facilities have been brought to our notice.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Production of Kharif Crops in Maharashtra

2431. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to inadequate irrigational facilities in certain districts of Maharashtra the plantation of Kharif sown during 1987-88 was very less as compared to the corresponding period during 1986-87 ; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to overcome such situations in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The area sown under some Kharif crops during 1987-88 in several districts of Maharashtra was less as compared to 1986-87 largely due to inadequate rainfall.

(b) In order to overcome the situation, the steps taken include the following :

- (i) Timely, easy and adequate supply of agricultural inputs inclusive of improved technology ;
- (ii) Implementation of National Programmes on Crops including National Watershed Development Programme ;
- (iii) Adoption of integrated plant protection measures ; and
- (iv) Increasing the intensity of cropping through double, multiple and inter-cropping etc.

**Share of Foreign Trade Handled by
Bombay and Madras Ports**

2432. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the share of foreign trade handled by Bombay and Madras Ports in 1964-65, port-wise ;

(b) the present share of foreign trade of these ports, port-wise ; and

(c) the Government's plan for improvement of these ports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). The percentage share of foreign trade handled by the ports of Bombay and Madras out of the total foreign trade handled by all the major ports during 1964-65 and 1987-88 is as follows :

	Share of foreign trade during	
	1964-65	1987-88
Bombay	38.6	19.39
Madras	8.5	17.46

(c) In the VIIth Five Year Plan, the major development schemes for the ports of Bombay and Madras are as under :

**Bombay : Total Plan outlay in VIIth Plan—
Rs. 106.13 crores.**

1. Replacement of Pir Pau Jetty.

2. Construction of RCC Trestle.
3. Augmentation of Container handling facilities.
4. Purchase of anti-pollution vessel.
5. Improvement of Oil and Chemical handling facilities at Pir Pau.

**Madras : Total Plan outlay in VIIth Plan—
Rs. 67.15 crores.**

1. Acquisition of Grab Dredger.
2. Extension of Container Berth.
3. Deepening of Bharathi Dock.

**Quantity and Category-wise Steel
Production**

2433. SHRI V. TULSIRAM :
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity and category of steel produced in the country, plant-wise ;

(b) the quantity of the steel used for manufacturing railway wheels, rails and other such fast running vehicles ;

(c) the quantity and quality of magnetic steel produced in the country ;

(d) whether efforts have been made to develop indigenous technology to improve the quality of steel ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Quantity and categories of steel produced by various integrated steel plants during 1987-88 is given in the statement below.

(See columns 227—230).

(b) Approximately 5.77 lakh tonnes of crude steel was used by the integrated steel plants during 1987-88 for manufacturing railway wheels, axles, tyres and rails etc. No data is available in respect of use of steel for manufacture of fast running vehicles.

Statement

Plant-wise and categorywise production of steel during 1987-88

Category	Plants						Total (^{'000 tonnes})
	RSP	BSP	DSP	BSL	IISCO	TISCO	
Billets/Squares	—	155	40	—	27	612	834
Other Re-rollables	55	358	277	99	74	317	1180
Bars and Rods	—	528	195	—	149	434	1306
Structurals	—	352	122	—	199	157	830
Rails (Heavy)	—	379	—	—	3	—	382
Rails (Light)	—	—	—	—	10	—	10
Other Railway Materials	—	20	73	—	—	13	106
Plates	343	381	—	357	—	99	1180
HR Coils/Skelp	231	—	129	929	—	155	1444
HR Sheets	—	—	—	251	48	68	367
CR Sheets	87	—	—	100	—	—	187
CR Coils	114	—	—	232	—	—	346
Galv. Sheets (GP & GC)	148	—	—	—	27	17	192

Elec. Sheets	36	—	—	—	—	—	42	78
Elec. Tinplates	63	—	—	—	—	—	—	63
Pipes	79	—	—	—	—	—	—	79
Total	1156	2173	836	1968	537	1914	8584	

(c) Quantity and quality of magnetic steel produced by the integrated steel plants during 1987-88 was as under :

(in '000 tonnes)

Quality	Quantity
<hr/>	
1. Electrical Sheets	
HR Dynamo Grade	14.8
CR Dynamo Grade	1.5
CRNO	18.0
2. High Silicon Sheets	42.1
<hr/>	

(d) and (e). SAIL's Research and Development Centre for Iron and Steel is functioning at Ranchi with the primary objective of making continuous efforts to improve quality of steel to match the stringent quality requirements of the customers. Some of the important R&D efforts by SAIL to develop indigenous technologies to improve the quality of steel that have been made are :

1. Dephosphorisation of steel made in Electric Arc Furnace.
2. Combined blowing in Basic Oxygen Converters at Bokaro Steel Limited.
3. Roll lubrication in section mills at Durgapur Steel Project.
4. Improvement in LPG quality steel through continuous casting of slabs at Bhilai Steel Plant.
5. Development of pressure vessel steel.
6. Development of 90 UTS rails by LD continuous casting route at Bhilai Steel Plant etc.
7. Development of DD/EDD steel.

Import of Technology for Improving Road Traffic

2434. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are importing technology for improving the road traffic and to avoid accidents ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to erect barrier in the middle of each National Highways to avoid accidents of the vehicles coming from opposite directions ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, as part of road safety programme, some equipment, like vehicle testing equipment, driver training evaluating system and vehicle weighing units are being procured under World Bank assisted National Highways project. The details of the equipments are :

- (i) Vehicle testing equipment ; —4 Nos.
- (ii) Driver training and evaluating system ; —4 Nos.
- (iii) Vehicle weighing units portable weigh bridges : —20 Nos.

(c) to (e). There is no proposal to erect barrier in the middle of each of the National Highways as most of the sections are either single or double lane. Only where the National Highways are being widened to four lanes, central median is provided.

Road Bridges on National Highways

2435. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of road bridges on National Highways, Highway-wise ;

(b) the life span of the major bridges fixed by Government ;

(c) the number and details of such bridges that have outlived their life and have not been repaired properly during the last three years ;

(d) whether Government propose to set

up a high power Committee to survey all the major road bridges on the National Highways ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) A Statement showing number of road bridges on National Highways is given below.

(b) No specific life span has been fixed for major bridges as this depends upon the type of construction and intensity and type

of traffic passing on it.

(c) On the basis of quick condition survey carried out in 1986, out of 1259 distressed bridges, 144 bridges have been sanctioned so far for reconstruction and 104 bridges for Special Repairs.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Since condition survey of bridges has already been carried out in 1986, constitution of a High Powered Committee is not considered necessary.

Statement

S. No.	Name of States	N. H. Nos.	No. of Bridges
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4, 5, 7, 9 and 43	514
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52 and 52A	28
3.	Assam	31, 31B, 31C, 36, 37, 37A, 38, 39, 44, 51, 52, 52A, 53 and 54	582
4.	Bihar	2, 6, 23, 28, 28A, 30, 31, 32 and 33	442
5.	Chandigarh	21	—
6.	Delhi	1, 2, 8, 10 and 24	15
7.	Goa	4A, 17 and 17A	39
8.	Gujarat	8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 15	380
9.	Haryana	1, 2, 8, 10 and 22	127
10.	Himachal Pradesh	21, 22 and 1A	74
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1A and 1B	56
12.	Karnataka	4, 4A, 7, 9, 13, 17 and 48	452
13.	Kerala	17, 47 and 47A	121
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3, 6, 7, 12, 25, 26, 27 and 43	641
15.	Maharashtra	3, 4, 4B, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 17 and 50	853

1	2	3	4
16.	Manipur	39 and 53	37
17.	Meghalaya	40, 44 and 51	66
18.	Mizoram	54, 54A and 54B	3
19.	Nagaland	36 and 39	6
20.	Orissa	5, 5A, 6, 23, 42 and 43	433
21.	Punjab	1, 1A, 10, 21, 22, 15	236
22.	Rajasthan	3, 8, 11, 15 and 12	360
23.	Sikkim	31A	4
24.	Tamil Nadu	4, 5, 7, 7A, 45, 45A, 46, 47 and 49	316
25.	Tripura	44	7
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2, 3, 7, 11, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 56	359
27.	West Bengal	2, 6, 31, 31A, 31C, 32, 34, 35 and 41	142
28.	Pondicherry	45A	1

Plan-wise Allocation made for Development of Forests

2436. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the Plan-wise allocation made for the development of forests in the country, State-wise ; and

(b) the amount utilised State-wise and Plan-wise for the development and maintenance of forests ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b). The information is given in the statements I and II below.

(See columns 237—246).

Ammonia and Urea Plants of Haldia Fertilizer Complex

2437. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) since how long the ammonia and urea plants of the Haldia Fertilizer Complex of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation are lying idle and the estimated amount invested in it ;

(b) whether Toyo Engineering Company of Japan and UDHE of West Germany have submitted their draft reports on the rehabilitation of these plants ;

(c) if so, the fresh investment envisaged for the rehabilitation of the above fertilizer complex ; and

(d) the decision taken by Government on the basis of the above reports from foreign experts on the rehabilitation of this idling plant complex ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) Commissioning activities in the Haldia Fertilizer Project were stopped from October, 1986. The

Statement-I
Planwise and Statewise Outlay/Allocation for the Development and Maintenance of Forests

State/UTs.	(Rs. in lakhs)									
	I Plan (1951-56)	II Plan (1956-61)	III Plan (1961-66)	Post III Plan (1966-69)	IV Plan (1969-74)	V Plan (1974-79)	Annual Plan (1979-80)	VI Plan (1980-85)	VII Plan (1985-90)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Andhra Pradesh	21	128	145	94	225	422	130	1050	6570	
Assam	36	93	90	93	386	835	275	2520	7000	
Bihar	125	437	295	158	335	2000	605	8000	4500	
Gujarat	21	75	224	186	400	2002	635	8900	12964	
Haryana	—	—	—	70	125	201	110	1450	6700	
Himachal Pradesh	59	35	80	306	980	1368	400	2900	11684	
Jammu and Kashmir	10	59	100	124	275	360	124	1028	3392	
Karnataka	88	46	289	237	400	776	140	3075	6000	
Kerala	60	89	375	250	600	847	205	1862	7000	
Madhya Pradesh	133	328	600	237	900	1099	375	3800	7877	
Maharashtra	84	219	295	270	750	1707	300	4875	10600	
Manipur	—3	3	25	13	35	142	70	475	1441	
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	192	76	500	2900	

Statement-II

Planwise and Statewise Utilisation for the Development and Maintenance of Forests

State/UTs.	(Rs. in lakhs)									
	I Plan (1951-56)	II Plan (1956-61)	II Plan (1961-66)	Post III Plan (1966-69)	IV Plan (1969-74)	V Plan (1974-79)	Annual (1979-80)	VI Plan (1980-85)	VII Plan First 3 years (1985-88)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Andhra Pradesh	26.46	97.13	170.65	179.97	284.79	597.49	91.51	2080.00	3841.00	
Assam	47.40	110.00	117.16	102.33	261.80	778.46	360.22	4058.00	5141.00	
Bihar	124.13	186.89	274.64	142.07	430.33	636.27	173.26	2140.00	2791.00	
Gujarat	19.74	102.19	156.11	207.68	360.15	2010.63	798.74	10008.00	7729.00	
Haryana	(a)	(a)	104.20	75.34	177.20	316.41	142.83	2151.00	3430.00	
Himachal Pradesh	11.77	35.40	184.45	264.01	787.91	1508.28	405.00	3662.00	5561.00	
Jammu and Kashmir	3.34	36.83	74.20	66.72	165.51	373.53	131.79	1579.00	2600.00	
Karnataka	4.41	100.59	306.20	257.34	488.40	832.08	357.63	3944.00	3726.00	
Kerala	--	51.35	215.57	256.89	402.24	711.99	190.41	1845.00	3812.00	
Madhya Pradesh	122.61	196.00	480.47	427.61	853.19	1256.60	403.72	5185.00	8022.00	
Maharashtra	22.91	118.60	475.76	392.14	995.34	1467.81	261.64	5206.00	5491.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Manipur	3.00	4.00	18.25	11.21	44.11	167.19	71.63	493.00	605.00
Meghalaya	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	99.60	205.67	80.19	599.00	1675.00
Nagaland	—	5.00	77.44	66.82	98.52	448.34	70.95	587.00	844.00
Orissa	13.29	49.38	243.50	185.98	396.02	572.01	314.84	1673.00	4133.00
Punjab	63.14	134.21	114.92	114.62	303.28	609.55	171.00	1689.00	1568.00
Rajasthan	31.60	125.50	144.93	76.56	140.61	793.24	300.04	2052.00	2371.00
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	175.42	66.94	623.00	514.00
Tamil Nadu	30.43	147.27	327.67	245.44	418.79	1070.19	438.99	6277.00	5941.00
Tripura	7.43	14.57	56.72	40.40	108.55	345.99	126.67	1129.00	1107.82
Uttar Pradesh	138.82	246.00	700.76	539.85	1223.94	2251.81	762.24	8361.00	8802.00
West Bengal	53.02	120.97	165.35	216.07	182.07	574.07	302.39	2728.00	2906.00
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.41	12.37	37.57	14.41	70.80	346.88	60.77	423.33	530.00
Arunachal Pradesh	23.17	28.51	56.17	51.19	161.02	364.48	137.40	1397.64	1491.00
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	2.60	10.01	8.01	64.79	89.50
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	7.21	38.98	17.72	202.23	266.59
Delhi	2.70	—	3.25	0.21	15.23	37.02	6.63	87.77	230.12

Goa, Daman and Diu	—	—	24.36	49.21	82.89	317.41	62.42	478.02	341.30
Mizoram	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	44.00	149.41	66.02	,700.97	1057.00
Pondicherry								26.47	91.11

(a) (included under Punjab) (b) (included under Assam).

expenditure on this project upto June, 1988 is Rs. 502.06 crores (provisional) excluding the financing charges for the current year.

(b) M/s. Toyo Engineering Corporation Japan and M/s. UHDE GmbH, West Germany have since submitted their reports ;

(c) The rehabilitation of the Haldia Complex envisages an investment of Rs. 501.85 crores.

(d) No decision has been taken.

Central Aid to Kerala for Promotion of Literacy

2438. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to extend any aid to the State of Kerala for promoting literacy in that State ;

(b) the details of the districts in that State which are aiming at cent per cent literacy under this programme ;

(c) whether there has been any delay in disbursing funds for programmes to promote literacy in the State of Kerala during 1987-88 ;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons for the delay ;

(e) whether work on the operation Blackboard programme has commenced in Kerala ; and

(f) if so, the details of the progress made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the fourteen districts are aiming at cent per cent literacy.

(c) and (d). There was no delay in releasing funds to Kerala only. All the States/Union Territories including Kerala were given the first instalment on

19-3-1987, second instalment on 4-1-1988 and third instalment on 7-3-1988.

(e) and (f). An amount of Rs. 151.11 lakhs was sanctioned to Government of Kerala for provision of teaching and learning materials in 1467 Primary Schools under the Scheme of Operation Blackboard and the State Government has been permitted to utilise the funds till 31-8-1988. The State Government has mentioned that purchase of teaching/learning materials and construction of school buildings have been taken up.

[Translation]

New Colleges in Delhi

2439. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : SHRI RAM DHAN :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether seats in Delhi colleges have not been increased adequately in the past for imparting regular education to students, keeping in view the growing population every year in Delhi and expansion of education ;

(b) if so, the number of new regular colleges opened during the last three years ; and

(c) the number of seats provided in these colleges for Science and Commerce Streams ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) : (a) According to the information furnished by Delhi University the intake capacity of regular colleges in Delhi has been increased from 30219 seats in 1985-86 to 31802 seats in 1987-88.

(b) and (c) Two new colleges, viz., College of Physical Education and Sports and College of Business Studies, with an intake capacity of 50 seats each, have been opened during the last three years. In addition, a College of Arts and Commerce has also been opened during this period in place of G. D. Salwan College. The College has 60 seats each in B.Com. (Hons.) and

B.Com. (Pass) Courses.

[English]

Per Hectare Production of Pepper

2440. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU :
SHRI K. MOHANDAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether per hectare production of pepper in India is far below the world

average ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken to raise production to the world average ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). The per hectare production of Pepper in India and other major producing countries are given below :

Name of the country		Productivity (kg./ha.) (As in 1986-87)
1.	India	240
2.	Indonesia	460
3.	Malaysia	2925
4.	Brazil	1580

(c) For increasing production and productivity of Pepper in India a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for development of spices, mainly pepper, is being implemented during the Seventh Five Year Plan. The scheme provides for production and distribution of high yielding planting materials, rejuvenation of old gardens, distribution of input kits etc. Besides, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Agricultural Universities are carrying out research programmes for evolving high yielding and disease resistant varieties and for improving agro-techniques.

Research on Diseases Affecting Coconut Trees

2441. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether research has been done on the diseases which affect the coconut trees ;

(b) if so, the result achieved so far ;

(c) whether Government propose to involve any international agency in finding a remedy for these diseases ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The research has yielded significant findings on spread, crop loss, etiology and management of major coconut diseases namely, root wilt, stem bleeding, Thanjavur wilt, bud rot, leaf rot and Tatipaka.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Production of Paddy in Kerala

2442. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total annual production of paddy in Kerala ;

(b) whether the production of paddy in Kerala has come down over a period of time ;

(c) if so, the facts thereof ;

(d) whether Kerala has the potential to raise paddy production ; and

(e) if so, the special steps, if any, being taken to increase paddy production in Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (c). The average annual production of paddy (in terms of rice) in Kerala for the triennium ending 1987-88 was 11.23 lakh tonnes, as compared to 13.05 lakh tonnes for the triennium ending 1977-78.

(d) and (e). The productivity of paddy (in terms of rice) in Kerala has increased from 1.5 tonnes per hectare for the triennium ending 1977-78 to 1.7 tonnes per hectare for the triennium ending 1987-88. It is possible to increase the production in the

State by raising productivity along with emphasis on area increase under paddy.

Integrated Development Schemes of Paradip Port

2443. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount earmarked for the implementation of the integrated development schemes of Paradip Port during 1988-89 ; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) An amount of Rs. 3.95 crores has been provided for various development schemes of Paradip Port during 1988-89.

(b) The details of important development schemes for which provision has been included during 1988-89 are given below :

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of the Scheme	Provision during 1988-89
1. Coal handling facilities	2.01
2. Electrical installations inside Port area	0.22
3. Replacement of floating crafts	0.27
4. Replacement of cargo handling equipments	0.83
5. Other ongoing works	0.62
Total	3.95

Target for Fish Production

2444. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for fish production during the Seventh Plan period ;

(b) the financial provision made for Orissa for taking steps to increase fish production ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The target set for fish production during the Seventh Plan is 32.50 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c). Separate financial provisions are not made for States under various

schemes. Funds are released on the basis of progress of Achievement of Physical targets. During the first 3 years of the 7th Plan an amount of Rs. 125.29 lakhs was released to Orissa under Central Sector Plan Schemes. A statement is given below.

Statement

Scheme-wise Release of Fund for Central Sector Plan Schemes During the Last Three Years for Orissa for taking steps to increase Fish Production

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Scheme	Amount released in the first 3 years of 7th Plan
1. Motorisation of Traditional Craft	8.23
2. Introduction of Beach Landing Craft	21.50
3. Fish Farmers' Development Agency	61.04
4. Brackishwater Aquaculture	7.85
5. Fishing Harbour at Minor Ports	5.67
6. Fishing Harbour at Major Ports	21.00
Total :	125.29

[Translation]

Adventurous Programmes for Children of Weaker Sections

2445. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Education Directorate of Delhi Administration has chalked out this year many adventurous programmes for school children particularly for the children belonging to weaker sections ;

(b) whether the adventurous programmes also include excursion to hills and beautiful places for school children ;

(c) if so, whether such an adventurous programme is proposed to be introduced in various parts of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh ; and

(d) if so, by what time and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). School education is looked after primarily by the State/Union Territory Governments. The States and Union Territories have got different youth programmes which are carried out by them independently. However, the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports of Government of India operates a Scheme for Promotion of Adventure for youth in the age group 15—35 years under which request from State Government for financial assistance is considered on merit.

Proposal for Change in Present System of Operation of Buses under DTC

2446. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to

bring about any change in the present system of operation of buses under the Delhi Transport Corporation ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, how the ticketless travelling which has increased after the introduction of present system is proposed to be checked ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). DTC has submitted to Directorate of Transport, Delhi Administration proposals under which the operations of private buses could be considered as on independent STA permits on certain routes. A final view on this has not been taken so far.

(c) Various measures taken by DTC to check ticketless travel in its buses include intensification of checking by supervisory staff and Mobile Squads, deployment of advance bookers at major/important terminals and removal of conductors' seat with a view that he moves in the bus and issues the ticket to the passengers at their seats.

[English]

Encouragement of Composed Companies for Acquisition of Ships

2448. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to encourage companies in the country for acquisition of ships ;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been approached to furnish future projections regarding additional requirements of off-shore supply vessels ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) There is no specific proposal to encourage composite companies for acquisition of ship. At present various composite companies are owning ships.

(b) and (c). Ministry of Petroleum and

Natural Gas has projected a shortfall of 13—17 Off-shore Supply vessels during the Seventh Plan period and 9-10 OSVs during the Eighth Plan period. The projections for the 8th Plan are tentative.

National Highway Finance Corporation

2449. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :
SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to set up National Highway Finance Corporation to raise finance needed for modernising National and State Highways all over the country has been finalised ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The institutional arrangements for public borrowing for financing construction of National Highways in the country have not been finalised.

GDR Assistance for Development of Water Transport System

2450. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a three member delegation visited German Democratic Republic during May, 1988 ;

(b) whether German Democratic Republic has agreed to provide assistance for development of water transport system in India ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the agreement signed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). During discussions, the Government of GDR has agreed in principle to assist India in Inland Water Transport

Sector in matters of acquisition of vessels, technical know-how and training. No formal agreement had been signed.

Encroachment on Forest Land on Hill Stations

2451. PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE :
DR. D.N. REDDY :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an increasing encroachment on the forest lands and other green spots at various hill stations in the country ;

(b) whether as a result of such encroachments the environment at these hill stations is fast changing which in turn leads to adverse climatic changes ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to prevent the encroachments ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Additional amount sought for by Nhava Sheva Port Trust

2452. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL :
SHRI S.M. GURADDI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Nhava Sheva Port Trust has sought an additional amount of Rs. 75 crores from Bombay Port Trust and Rs. 50 crores from Kandla Port Trust ; and

(b) if so, whether the amount asked for has been provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Annual Plan outlay for 1988-89 provides for loans of Rs. 75 crores from Bombay Port Trust and Rs. 50 crores from Kandla Port Trust to Nhava Sheva Port Trust.

(b) No, Sir.

Spread of Green Revolution

2453. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new steps have been suggested by the farm experts to facilitate the spread of green revolution to new areas ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether any time bound programme has been drawn up to implement those steps ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). Suggestions are made from time to time for spreading the green revolution to new areas.

(c) Government attaches the highest importance to agricultural production. Special Thrust Programmes for increasing the production of foodgrains and oilseeds have already been introduced in the potential areas.

Afforestation Programme

2454. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided that at least 70 per cent of the afforestation work should be done in the forest sector so that requirements for both fuelwood and raw material for industry can be met ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to seek the help of local institutions like Panchayats and financial institutions to support the efforts of individuals in raising farm forestry ; and

(c) the present demand for fuelwood in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) About 70% of the allocations for the Forest Sector is generally utilised for afforestation purposes, for meeting the fuelwood and fodder requirement as also the raw material requirement of industries.

(b) The ongoing programme provides for the involvement of local bodies like Panchayats as well as financial institutions.

(c) The present demand of fuelwood is estimated to be about 200 million m³.

Revised Agreement with University and College Teachers

2455. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the terms of the agreement between Government and the National Federation of University Teachers in September, 1987 ;

(b) the brief particulars of the revised scheme for meeting the service conditions of the university teachers as finalised under the agreement ;

(c) whether the revised scheme has been implemented in the Central universities ;

(d) the names of States which have implemented the revised scheme as approved by the Union Government ; and

(e) whether any financial assistance has been extended to the States for implementing the revised scheme ; if so, the amount, State-wise, released/allocated for 1987-88 and 1988-89 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAH) : (a) On September 4, 1987, the then Minister of Human Resource Development had made a statement that some modifications would be made in the scheme of revision of pay scales of teachers in universities and colleges. The main points of the statement were : the number of scales would be reduced by combining the two grades of Readers ; teachers who have spent 20 years as Lecturer will be eligible for consideration for promotion as Readers if they fulfil certain specified research standards ; those who do not get promoted as Readers would be placed in a Selection Grade to be determined after further consultation ; provision for advance increments with corresponding benefits in years of service will be sanctioned to those who possess research degrees at the time of their

recruitment ; and the revision of the pay scales of Librarians and DPEs would be expedited. The All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisations called off the strike on this basis.

(b) The Government have made necessary amendments to the scheme of revision of salary scales announced in June, 1987 and communicated them to the State Governments/U Ts. on 22-7-1988. The major amendments are given in the statement below.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) On the basis of the decision communicated in June, 1987, the State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir (for University teachers only), Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka (for University teachers only) have finalised their proposals of revision of pay scales. These and other State Governments have been requested to review their decision in the light of amendments communicated on July 22, 1988 and make necessary changes where necessary.

(e) No, Sir. However, financial assistance will be available to the State Governments to the extent of 80% of the additional expenditure involved in the implementation of the scheme for the period 1-1-1986 to 31-3-1990. This will be sanctioned in the form of reimbursement of the expenditure incurred by them. For the year 1988-89, a provision of Rs. 272.86 crores has been made in the Central budget for the purpose.

Statement

1. The main amendments made to the scheme of revision of pay scales are :

Scales of Pay

(i) The June 1987 notification provided for two scales of pay for Readers. These two have been combined into a single grade of Rs. 3700-5700.

(ii) The revised Selected Grade for Lecturers will also be Rs. 3700-5700.

(iii) The Vice-Chancellors in Central

Universities will be on a fixed pay of Rs. 7600/-.

- (iv) The Scheme of Professor of Eminence is being reviewed.

Recruitment and Qualifications

- (v) The qualifying test for recruitment of Lecturers is intended to be organised through a number of agencies keeping in view the requirements of the media of instruction followed by different States/Universities
- (vi) To encourage enrolment in research programmes immediately on completion of postgraduate studies candidates who have M.Phil. or Ph.D. degrees will be entitled to one and three advance increments respectively at the time of their recruitment. They will also be entitled to the benefit of corresponding years of service for the purpose of promotion. The existing Lecturers and those recruited in future without research degrees will also be eligible for the benefit in service when they acquire research degrees.

Career Advancement

- (vii) Every lecturer will be eligible for placement in a Senior Scale of Rs. 3000—5000 on completion of 8 years of service. A Lecturer with Ph.D. degree will be eligible for this placement after 5 years and a Lecturer with M.Phil. degree on completion of 7 years. In all cases, placement in the Senior Scale is subject to participation in continuing education programmes and consistently satisfactory performance appraisal.
- (viii) A Lecturer in the Senior Scale on completion of 8 years will be eligible for promotion as Reader in both Universities and Colleges. Only those who have a Ph.D. degree or equivalent published work and have made a mark in scholarship and research will be eligible for promotion as Reader. Self-assessment, reports of referees, quality of

publications, contribution to educational renovation, design of new courses and curricula, etc. would be taken into account for this purpose.

- (ix) Those Lecturers in the Senior Scale who do not have Ph.D. degree and who do not meet the scholarship and research standards prescribed for a Reader will be eligible for placement in a Selection Grade of Rs. 3700—5700 if they have a good record in teaching and/or participation in extension activities. They could offer themselves for a fresh assessment after obtaining Ph.D. degree and fulfilling other requirements for promotion as Readers and if found suitable, could be designated as Readers.
- (x) Promotion to the post of Reader and placement in the Selection Grade will be through a process of selection by a Committee constituted by the University for appointment of Readers. In both cases, participation in continuing education programmes and consistently good performance appraisal reports are essential elements in the design for career advancement.
- (xi) For placement of Lecturers in the Senior Scale and Selection Grade as well as for promotion to the post of Readers, the required number of posts will be created by up grading the posts held by the incumbents concerned.
- (xii) Promotions made under the Merit Promotion Scheme of the U.G.C., or any other similar schemes, before the announcement of the revised scales on June 17, 1987, will not be re-opened. However, in such cases the benefit of revision will be available to teachers only from the dates of their promotion.

Revision of pay scales of Librarians and Physical Education Personnel

The revised pay scales of Librarians and Physical Education personnel are the same as were approved for teachers. A University

Librarian will be eligible for placement in the Professor's grade, namely Rs. 4500—7300 ; a Deputy Librarian in the Reader's grade, namely, Rs. 3700—5700 ; and a Assistant Librarian in the Lecturer's grade, namely, Rs. 2200—4000. The Assistant Librarians will be entitled to a Senior Scale of Rs. 3000—5000 on completion of 8 years and to a Selection Grade of Rs. 3700—5700 after another 8 years. Assistant Librarian in the Senior Scale will also be eligible for promotion to the post of Deputy Librarian. Similar provisions have been made for Physical Education Personnel in Universities, namely, Assistant Director of Physical Education, Deputy Director of Physical Education and Director of Physical Education.

The College Librarians and Director/Instructor of Physical Education in Colleges will be in the scale of pay of a Lecturer, namely, Rs. 2200—4000. They will also have a Senior Scale and Selection Grade. However, there will be no posts beyond Selection grade for Librarians and Physical Education Personnel in Colleges.

Languages Taught in Navodaya Vidyalayas

2456. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :
SHRI NARSING SURYA-
VANSI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the medium of instruction in Navodaya Vidyalayas ;

(b) whether Hindi and English are taught as compulsory subjects in these Vidyalayas at the junior and secondary stage ;

(c) whether any language other than Hindi and English is taught as compulsory or optional subject in these Vidyalayas ;

(d) if so, the names of the languages, State-wise ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Three Language Formula, 1961 has not been introduced in the Navodaya Vidyalayas ; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) In accordance with the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme, instructions are being provided to the students admitted in Navodaya Vidyalayas through the medium of mother tongue/regional language upto Class VII or VIII and thereafter the common medium will be Hindi/English in all Navodaya Vidyalayas.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. A language other than Hindi and English is taught compulsorily.

In the Hindi-speaking districts the third language taught in a Navodaya Vidyalaya would be the language of the 20% students migrating to that Vidyalaya from a non-Hindi region. In the non-Hindi regions, Navodaya Vidyalayas will follow the normal Three Language Formula viz. Regional Language, Hindi and English with Hindi/English as medium from Class VIII or IX. State-wise prescription of the third language to be taught compulsorily in Hindi-speaking districts is being worked out in phases. In the non-Hindi regions it is already under implementation.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The question does not arise.

Revision of Royalty Rates for Minerals

2457. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the royalty payable to the State Governments for some minerals has been revised during 1987-88 ;

(b) if so, the names of those minerals with the original and revised rates ;

(c) the year of last revision in the case of other minerals ; and

(d) whether there is any demand from the producing States for the revision of royalty for the minerals mentioned in (c) above ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) The rates of royalty on minerals other than coal and sand for stowing were revised w.e.f. 5-5-1987.

(b) The information is given in the statement below.

(See columns 265—280).

Statement
Rates of royalty

(Rate : rupees per tonne except stated otherwise)

Mineral	1	2	3
	Old rate	Revised rate	
1. Agate	50.00	55.00	
2. All precious and semi-precious stones (except agate and diamond)	20% of the sale price at the pit's mouth	20% of the sale price at the pit's mouth	
3. Apatite and Rock Phosphate			
(a) ores with 25% or more P_2O_5	15.00	(a) ores with more than 27% P_2O_5	45.00
(b) ores with less than 25% P_2O_5	10.00	(b) ores with 20% to 27% P_2O_5	25.00
		(c) ores with less than 20% P_2O_5	10.00
4. Asbestos			
(a) chrysotile	250.00	(a) chrysotile	285.00
(b) amphibols	15.00	(b) amphibols	15.00
5. Barytes			
(a) white (including snow-white)	15.00	(a) white (including snow white and super snow-white)	20.00

3

2

1

	(b) off-colour		(b) off-colour	
6. Bauxite		8.00		10.00
7. Cadmium		8.00		10.00
		Rs. 16.00 per unit per cent of Cadmium metal per tonne of ore and on pro-rata basis		Rs. 16.00 per unit per cent of Cadmium metal per tonne of ore and on pro rata basis
8. Calcite		6.00		15.00
9. Chinaclay also called Kaolin (including ball clay and white shale)		(a) crude 4.00	(a) crude	8.00
		(b) washed 18.00	(b) processed (including washed)	35.00
10. Chromite (both lumpy-nonfriable ore and concentrates)				
(a) containing 48% Cr_2O_3 and above		50.00	(a)	60.00
(b) containing less than 48% Cr_2O_3 but more than 40% Cr_2O_3		25.00	(b)	30.00
(c) containing less than 40% Cr_2O_3		15.00	(c) containing 30% to 40% Cr_2O_3	20.00
			(d) containing less than 30% Cr_2O_3	5.00
11. Copper ore		Rs. 4.00 per unit per cent of copper metal per tonne of ore and on pro rata basis	Rs. 5.00 per unit per cent of copper metal contained per tonne of ore and on pro rata basis	
12. Corundum		65.00		110.00

		15% of the sale price at the pit's mouth	15% of the sale price at the pit's mouth
13.	Diamond		
14.	Diaspore	20.00	30.00
15.	Dolomite	5.00	8.00
16.	Felspar	4.00	6.00
17.	Fire clay (including plastic pipe, lithographic and natural (pozzolanic) clay)	4.00	5.00
18.	Fluorspar (also called fluorite)		
	(a) containing 85% CaF_2 or more	75.00	110.00
	(b) containing 70% CaF_2 or more but less than 85% CaF_2	50.00	75.00
	(c) containing more than 30% CaF_2 but less than 70% CaF_2	35.00	50.00
	(d) containing 30% CaF_2 or less	15.00	20.00
19.	Granet (abrasive)	10.00	15.00
20.	Gold		
		Rs. 2.00 per one gram of gold per tonne of ore and on pro rata basis	Rs. 2.00 per one gram contained gold per tonne of ore and on pro rata basis
21.	Graphite		
	(a) with 80% or more fixed carbon	50.00	(a) with 80% or more fixed carbon 75.00
	(b) with 40% or more fixed carbon but less than 80% fixed carbon	30.00	(b) with 40% or more fixed carbon but less than 80% fixed carbon 40.00

1	2	3
(c) with less than 40% fixed carbon	12.00	(c) with 20% or more fixed carbon but less than 40% fixed carbon 15.00
22. Gypsum	4.00	8.00
23. Ilmenite	6.00	10.00
24. Iron :		
(i) ore lumps		
(a) with 65% Fe or more	4.00	6.00
(b) with 62% Fe or more but less than 65% Fe	3.00	3.50
(c) with 60% Fe or more but less than 62% Fe	2.00	2.50
(d) with less than 60% Fe	1.50	2.00
(ii) ore fines :		
(A) fines including natural fines and fines produced incidental to mining and sizing of ore)		
(a) with 65% Fe or more	2.50	3.50

25.	(b) with 62% Fe or more but less than 65% Fe	1.50			2.00
	(c) with less than 62% Fe	1.00			1.50
	(B) Concentrates prepared by beneficiation and/ore concentration of low grade ore containing 40% Fe or less	0.50			0.50
26.	Kyanite	30.00	Kyanite and Andalusite	40.00	
27.	Lead ore				
28.	Lime shell (including calcareous sand and chalk)	5.00			10.00
29.	Limestone (including lime kankar)	4.50			10.00
30.	Magnesite	6.00			10.00
31.	Manganese ore				
32.	(a) Manganese dioxide (containing 78% or more of MnO ₂ and 4% or below Fe	30.00			45.00
33.	(b) 46% Mn and above	12.00			15.00
34.	(c) 35% Mn and above but below 46% Mn	7.50			9.00

	1	2	3
	(d) below 35% Mn but above 25% Mn	5.00	6.00
	(e) 25% Mn or below	2.00	2.00
31. Mica			
	(a) crude mica	Rs. 8.00 per 100 Kgs.	Rs. 10.00 per 100 Kgs.
	(b) Trimmed mica of qualities other than heavy stained, dense stained or spotted second quality	Rs. 16.00 per 100 Kgs.	Rs. 60.00 per 100 Kgs.
	(c) Trimmed mica of heavy stained, dense stained or spotted second quality	Rs. 8.40 per 100 Kgs.	Rs. 30.00 per 100 Kgs.
	(d) waste and scrap mica	Rs. 2.80 per 100 Kgs.	Rs. 4.00 per 100 Kgs.
	(e) waste rounds	Rs. 3.50 per 100 Kgs.	Rs. 5.00 per 100 Kgs.
32. Monazite		10% of the sale price at the pit's head	Rs. 40.00
33. Nickel ore		Rs. 2.00 per unit per cent of contained nickel metal per tonne of ore and on pro rata basis	Rs. 2.00 per unit per cent of contained nickel per tonne of ore and on pro rata basis
34. Ochre		5.00	6.00

35.	Pyrites	Rs. 0.12 per unit per cent of sulphur per tonne of ore and on pro rata basis	Rs. 0.25 per unit per cent of sulphur per tonne of ore and on pro rata basis
36.	Pyrophyllite	5.00	10.00
37.	Quartz and silica sand	2.50	Quartz, silica sand and moulding sand 5.00
38.	Quartzite	2.50	5.00
39.	Rutile	70.00	100.00
40.	Selenite	10% of the sale price at the pit's head	20.00
41.	Sillimanite	40.00	50.00
42.	Silver	Rs. 100.00 per kg. of metal	Rs. 150.00 per kg. of metal
43.	Slate	10% of the sale price at the pit's head	18.00
44.	Talc, Steatite and soapstone	8.00	(a) insecticide grade 10.00 (b) other than insecticide grade 30.00
45.	Tungsten ore	Rs. 10.00 per unit per cent of WO_3 per tonne and on pro rata basis	Rs. 12.00 per unit per cent contained of WO_3 per tonne of ore and on pro rata basis
46.	Vermiculite	4.00	8.00
47.	Wollastonite	10.00	30.00

1	2	3
48. Zinc ore	Rs. 4.00 per unit per cent of zinc metal contained per tonne of ore and on pro rata basis	Rs. 6.00 per unit per cent of zinc metal contained per tonne of ore and on pro rata basis
49. Zircon	10% of the sale price at the pit's head	90.00
50. All other minerals not herein before specified.	10% of the sale price at pit's mouth	10% of the sale price at pit's mouth

(c) The rates of royalty on coal and sand for stowing were revised last on 13-2-1981.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Grant of Autonomous Status to Colleges

2458. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the colleges which have been granted autonomous status by the University Grants Commission State-wise as on 30 June, 1988 ;

(b) the names of colleges under consideration for the grant of autonomous status by the University Grants Commission as on that same day ;

(c) whether the University Grants Commission proposes to give any special grants to these colleges for developing their faculties syllabi or educational infrastructure ; and

(d) if so, the amount allocated for the purpose during the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) A list showing the names of colleges, Statewise, which have been approved for autonomous status till 30th June, 1988 is given in the statement below.

(See columns 283—292).

(b) The Commission had received proposals for autonomous status from 6 colleges in Madhya Pradesh. The names of these Colleges are :

- (1) Government Model Science College, Jabalpur.
- (2) Government M.H. College of Home Science for Women, Jabalpur.
- (3) Government Mahakoshal Arts and Commerce College, Jabalpur.
- (4) Ambah P.G. College, Ambah.
- (5) Madhav Vigyan Mahavidyalaya, Ujjain.

(6) Government Science College, Rewa

(c) The Commission has agreed to provide financial assistance to autonomous colleges for additional faculty and administrative staff, redesigning of courses, development of teaching-learning materials, examination reforms, improvements of libraries and laboratories, etc. The assistance for this purpose will be provided within a ceiling of Rs. 4-6 lakhs per annum for undergraduate colleges and Rs. 7 lakhs for colleges offering under-graduate and post-graduate education.

(d) The provision made by UGC in the budget for 1988-89 for the scheme is Rs. 150 lakhs.

Special Funds for Kharif Operations

2459. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special funds have been allocated this year for kharif operations by the Union Government to the States ; and

(b) if so, the total allocation for Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) An additional allocation of Rs. 70 crores has been made during 1988-89, for fourteen States covered under Special Foodgrain Production Programme.

(b) Out of this amount, the allocation for Bihar is Rs. 9.36 crores.

Dairy Development Technology Mission

2460. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dairy Development Technology Mission proposes to deal with the stabilisation of the cattle population of the country at an economic and viable level ;

(b) whether the mission would help both urban and rural people through making dairying a profitable venture by providing

Statement

State	University	College
1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	Madurai Kamaraj University	1. Lady Doak College, Madurai
		2. Madurai College, Madurai
		3. The American College, Madurai
		4. S.P. College for Women, Countalam
		5. Arul Anandar College, Karumathur
		6. GTN Arts College, Dindigul
		7. Thiagarajan College, Madurai
		8. Vivekanand College, Tiruvedagan
		9. Ayya Nagar Janaki Ammal College, Sivakasi
		10. St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai
		11. Thiagarajan College of Engineering Madurai
	Madras University	1. Loyala College, Madras
		2. Madras Christian College, Madras
		3. Vivekananda College, Madras
		4. Women's Christian College, Madras
		5. YMCA College of Physical Education, Madras
		6. Stella Maris College, Madras

7. Presidency College, Madras
8. Queen Mary's College, Madras
9. Sacred Heart College, Tirupettur
10. Meston College of Education, Madras
11. Technical Teachers Training Institute, Madras

Bharathidasan University

1. Regional Engineering College, Tiruchirapalli
2. St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirapalli
3. Holy Cross College, Tiruchirapalli
4. A.V.C. College, Mayuram
5. Sri Pushpam College, Pondi
6. Government College for Men, Kumbakonam
7. Seetha Lakshmi Ramaswami College, Tiruchirapalli

Bharathiar University

1. P.S.G. College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore
2. P.S.G. College of Technology, Coimbatore
3. Sri Avinashlingam Home Science College for Women, Coimbatore
4. Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya Arts and Science College, Coimbatore
5. Government College of Technology, Coimbatore
6. Erode Arts College, Erode.
7. Nallamuthu Gunder Mahalingam College, Pollachi

1

2

3

Andhra Pradesh**Andhra University**

8. Government Arts College, Gobichettupalayam
9. Government Arts College, Coimbatore
10. Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Coimbatore
11. Government College of Technology, Coimbatore
1. DNR College, Bhimavaram
2. Sir C.R.R. College, Eluru
3. Ch. S.D. St. Theresa's College for Women, Eluru
4. S.R.V.S.S.J.R. Maharao College, Peddapuram
5. S.D.S. College of Arts and Applied Science, Shreeram Nagar
6. M.R. College for Men, Vizianagaram
7. St. Joseph's College for Women, Visakhapatnam

Nagarjuna University

1. Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada
2. P.B. Sidhartha College of Arts and Science, Vijayawada

Omania University

1. College of Arts and Science, Kamareddy
2. University College for Women, Hyderabad
3. Nizam College, Hyderabad
4. RBVRR Women's College, Hyderabad
5. Anwar Ul-Uloom College, Hyderabad
6. SSR Jyoti Arts and Science College, Khammam

7. St. Francis College for Women, Secunderabad

Sri Venkateswara University

1. Sri Padmavathi College for Women, Tirupati

2. S.V. College for Men, Tirupati

3. B.T. College, Madanapalle

4. Jawahar Bharati, Kavali

Rajasthan University

1. Government College, Ajmer

2. M.S.J. College, Bharatpur

3. Dungar College, Bikaner

4. Arts and Science College, Kota

Madhya Pradesh

Jiwaji University

1. Lakshmibai National College of Physical Education, Gwalior

2. Government Science College, Gwalior

3. MLB Arts and Commerce College, Gwalior

Ravi Shankar University

1. Government Science College, Raipur

2. Government Arts and Science College, Durg

3. Government D.B. Girls College, Raipur

Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya

1. Government S.N. Postgraduate College, Khandwa

2. Government P.G. College, Chindwara

Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya

1. Holkar Science College, Indore

2. Kasthurbagram Rural Instt., Indore

Bhopal University

1. Government Motilal Vigyan Mahavidyalaya, Bhopal

1	2	3
Gujarat	Guru Ghasidas University	1. Government Model P.G. Science College, Bilaspur
		2. Government P.G. College, Ambikapur
		3. K.G. Arts and Science College, Raigarh
		4. Government Girls P.G. College, Bilaspur
		5. CHD P.G. College, Bilaspur
Gujarat	Saurashtra University	1. Lok-Bharati Seva Mahavidyalaya, Sonasara, Distt. Bhavanagar

milk to urban consumers at affordable prices ;

(c) whether in evolving this mission the shortfalls of Operation Milk Flood would be avoided ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Through Technology Mission for Dairy Development, emphasis will be placed on :

- (i) Developing acceptable systems of cullings of inefficient animals ;
- (ii) Upgrading of non-descript Indian buffaloes and selective breeding of some important breeds of cow and buffaloes ;
- (iii) Cross breeding of non-descript cattle with exotic breeds ;
- (iv) Selective breeding of important draught breeds for producing quality bullocks ;
- (v) Adoption of improved technologies like frozen semen, embryo transplant, genetic engineering etc., for gaining quicker results.

(b) The Mission would strengthen and consolidate existing efforts in providing remunerative market round the year, helping in getting better returns to the milk producers in rural areas and making available quality milk at reasonable price to the urban consumers.

(c) and (d). The Mission by integrating the dairy development component of all the States and Central Schemes and better utilisation of all the existing resources, seeks to bring about improvement in the dairy sector in the country as a whole.

Rail-Road Co-ordination along Gangetic Belt

2461. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any final decision has been

taken on rail-road co-ordination along the Gangetic belt to achieve maximum traffic handling capacity at optimal cost ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) There is no specific proposal pending before Government on rail-road co-ordination along the Gangetic belt.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Studies in Marine Resources for Deep Sea Fishing

2462. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any studies in marine ecology of the Indian Ocean with particular reference to the marine resources of the west coast have been conducted ;

(b) if so, the results thereof ;

(c) whether any noticeable depletion of marine resources, particularly special type of fish like shrimp and prawns, has been found ;

(d) if so, whether it is due to over fishing and use of special type of nets that destroy marine life ; and

(e) if so, steps taken to regulate deep sea fishing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin has conducted ecological/fishery environmental investigations in relation to fishery resources, while the Fishery Survey of India, Bombay has conducted a comprehensive study on the abundance and distribution of demersal, pelagic and deep sea fishery resources along the west coast of India. The studies indicate that while during the mon-

soon months, coastal up-welling, marked fluctuation in salinity, dissolved oxygen and subsurface temperature gradients, etc. exist, stable conditions prevail during pre and post monsoon months. The survey operations indicate potential grounds for several species of fish at various parts of the West Coast. While Oil sardine and mackerel form the main stay of coastal pelagic resources, the predominant demersal species are nemipterids, sciaenids, perches, pomfrets, catfish and ribbon fish in the 40–100 M depth range. Deep sea varieties available in abundance are priacanthids (bull's eye), *psenes indicus* (Indian drift fish) and black ruff as well as deep sea prawns and lobsters at 100–300 M depth. Squid and cuttle fish are available in several segments at 50–100 M depths.

(c) No depletion of marine resources particularly shrimp has been observed except marginal fluctuations in catch during different seasons.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Computer Programme by NCUI

2463. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a programme on computer application in co-operatives was organised by the National Co-operative Union of India in collaboration with NCERT in Delhi in May, 1988 ; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The programme was organised on the recommendations of the National Conference of Chief Executives of State Co-operative Unions, Registrar of Cooperative Societies and Cooperative Education Officers on "Cooperative Education" held at New Delhi on 10th and 11th March, 1988. The objective of the programme was to create computer awareness in cooperatives and its application. The following were the salient features of the programme :

(i) The participants belonging to the

categories of Chief Executives Unions, Principals of Cooperative Training Colleges and Officials of National level cooperative organisations were exposed to the varied use of computers and its application ;

(ii) The various units covered were : Classification of computers, Hardware familiarity, Computer capabilities and Welcome package, computer applications, Word Processing, Database and their management—creation and handling of database, Spread sheet, Use of computer in Evaluation and Computer and Office Management ;

(iii) The methodology used was lecture-cum-demonstration, video films, video demonstration on co-operatives, video tapes, visit to the National Information Centre New Delhi and distribution of materials to the participants ; and

(iv) It was recommended at the end of programme that similar programmes should be organised for key persons of the cooperative organisations at State Cooperative Union/Cooperative Training College level.

Support Price Policy for Foodgrains

2464. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to extend the Support Price Policy for foodgrains to certain varieties of perishable vegetable crops not covered under the scheme so far ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Coking Coal

2465. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Steel has decided to allow import of 2.5 million tonnes of prime coking coal for the integrated steel plants ;

(b) if so, whether the import is to meet the shortfall in the domestic production of prime coking coal ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) to (c). The import of coking coal depends upon the total indigenous availability, the level of hot metal production and on the need for improved technological performance in steel plants. As per current indication, integrated steel plants are expected to import around 4 million tonnes of prime coking coal in the current year.

Production of Longer Length Rails by Bhilai Steel Plant

2466. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the management of Bhilai Steel Plant proposes to start manufacturing longer length rails and head-hardened rails to help upgrade the Indian Railway's track network ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Bhilai Steel Plant is proposing to start manufacture of longer rails of 26 m. length along with the conventional 13 m. length rails being currently produced there. Bhilai Steel Plant also proposes to produce some head hardened rails as per Railway's requirement and specification. This will be achieved by augmentation of existing finishing facilities and certain modifications in existing layout which will enable production of longer length rails and at the same time increase production, inter alia of head hardened rails.

Production in Green Revolution Belt

2467. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production in the green revolution belt has reached its peak ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to increase production further in this belt ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) A Special Foodgrain Production Programme is being implemented in 14 States covering 169 potential districts. The focus would be on crops like Rice, Wheat, Maize, Arhar and Gram. A five pronged strategy has been suggested for increasing foodgrain production. They includes :

(i) Increased fertiliser use by 20 kg. of nutrients per hectare (kg./ha)

(ii) Use of improved high yielding variety seeds.

(iii) Better management of weeds and timely control of pests and diseases.

(iv) Harnessing ground water through tubewells, completing on-farm development works in command areas and completing the near completion irrigation projects and efficient use of the stored water.

Admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas to Wards of Nationalised Banks' Employees

2468. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Bangalore city ;

(b) whether the children of nationalised bank employees are not given admission in these vidyalayas ; and

(c) whether Government propose to treat the children of the nationalised bank employees at par with the defence personnel in the matter of admission in these vidyalayas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) There are 11

Kendriya Vidyalayas located in Bangalore.

(b) and (c). Children of employees of nationalised banks are considered for admission to the Kendriya Vidyalayas as per the priorities indicated in the admission policy. There is no proposal to revise the admission policy.

Afforestation on Barren Areas in Karnataka

2469. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sent a Rs. 100 Crore project to develop dry districts and hillock areas in the State on the lines of Western Ghat Scheme ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any external assistance has also been sought by the Karnataka Government in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Navodaya Vidyalayas in Kerala

2470. SHRI A. CHARLES : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas sanctioned for the State of Kerala during the Seventh Plan period ;

(b) the number of Vidyalayas started so far ;

(c) the amount so far spent on each Vidyalaya ;

(d) whether any target date has been fixed for starting the Navodaya Vidyalayas in Kerala ; and

(e) if so, whether the target has been achieved and if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) So far, in the first four years of the 7th Plan period, ten Navodaya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned, four in 1986-87, three in 1987-88 and three in 1988-89.

(b) Seven Navodaya Vidyalayas have been started so far. Three more Navodaya Vidyalayas are expected to start during this month.

(c) The amount spent on each Vidyalaya depends on the year in which it is started. In the first year, we spent approximately Rs. 9.00 lakhs on its recurring costs, in the second year approximately Rs. 13.00 lakhs and in the third year approximately Rs. 17.00 lakhs.

(d) All Navodaya Vidyalayas in the country (excluding snow-bound areas) including Kerala are expected to start in the last week of July of every year.

(e) The target has so far been not achieved since the admission test and its results could not be processed in time in the initial stages of the implementation of this new Scheme.

Construction of VSP

2471. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Investment Board (PIB) has approved during the last week of June a massive investment of Rs. 6,849/- crores in the construction of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant ;

(b) whether the proposals were held up on account of non-clearance from the Department of Environment ; and

(c) whether after this approval by the Public Investment Board the Steel Plant would be commissioned as scheduled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Government approved a revision of cost estimates amounting to Rs. 6849.70 crores of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in June 1988.

(b) Although some time was taken in finalising the conditions to be observed by the plant from the environmental point of view, this did not in any way hold up work on the implementation of the project.

(c) All efforts are being made to commission the project on schedule.

Closure of Mines in Bihar and Orissa

2472. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of mines in the eastern part of Bihar and Orissa have been closed down, if so, the details and reasons thereof ;

(b) the details of effect on the mineral production ; and

(c) the steps being taken to restart these mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) to (c). The Government of Orissa have reported that about 60 mines mainly of iron ore, manganese ore, chinaclay, graphite, quartz and quartz-zite, limestone and dolomite have been closed. Closure of these mines are due to various reasons like lack of market for chinaclay, quartz and quartz-zite, limestone and dolomite ; low grade and lack of infrastructure in respect of graphite ; and reduction in offtake of iron ore. The approximate reduction in mineral production will be about 9 lakh tonnes of which 8 lakh tonnes is likely to be in respect of iron ore. To improve the iron ore marketing, diversification of market, formulation of plans for expansion of port capacity to accommodate large sized vessels at Paradip port, tying up export sales through long term agreement with major buyers of iron ore are some of the steps contemplated.

Information in respect of Bihar is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

History of Modern India by Indian Council of Historical Research

2473. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether only one volume of history of modern India has been brought out so far and the second volume has been withheld since the starting of "Towards Freedom" project of the Indian Council of Historical Research in 1974-75 ;

(b) the number of volumes of history of modern India yet to be brought out and the reasons for withholding the second volume ; and

(c) the steps being taken to complete this project within a stipulated period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The first volume of "Towards Freedom" project has been brought out. The second volume is under scrutiny of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).

(b) Nine more volumes under the "Towards Freedom" project are yet to be brought out. The manuscript of the second volume is under scrutiny of ICHR.

(c) The Indian Council of Historical Research has appointed individual editors for each of the eight volumes to complete the Project by the 31st of March 1992.

Road Accidents

2474. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether accident rate on Indian road network is three times higher than that of any other developing country ; and

(b) the number of road accidents during 1986-87 and 1987-88 on Indian road network and the number of persons killed and injured therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) The rate of road accidents per 1000 vehicles in India has been 22.8 for 1985 and 20.53 for 1986. Comparative data in respect of other developing countries is not available.

(b) The road accidents, persons killed and persons injured during 1985 and 1986 are as under :

Year	Nos. of road accidents	Persons killed	Persons injured
1985	208417	39047	168910
1986	211308	40380	175707

The figures for 1987 are not available.

Unauthorised occupation of Land by
Non-tribals

1955.

[Translation]

2475. SHRI SAMAR BRAHMA CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether land belonging to 'Sahariya' primitive tribe in Rajasthan is held under unauthorised occupation by non-tribals ;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted for ascertaining the exact number of such cases ; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to restore the land to the rightful owners ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A survey was undertaken by the Revenue Authorities of Kota District in May, 1987. 161 cases were detected.

(c) Action has been initiated by the District Revenue Authorities under Section 175 and 183 of Rajasthan Tenancy Act,

Production of Copper

2476. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that production of copper is far less than its demand in the country ;

(b) whether requirement of medium and small scale users is not being met by primary producers on account of this ; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures being contemplated in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) to (c) During the last 3 years the indigenous production of copper by Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL), which is the sole producer of primary copper in the country, and import of copper through the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC), the canalising agency for the import of primary copper, were as follows :

Unit : Tonnes

Year	Production by FCL including tollsmelted copper	Imports by MMTC
1985-86	43,842	77,745
1986-87	44,563	43,741
1987-88	42,134	80,525

2. There is no scarcity of copper at present in the market and the requirements of medium and small scale users are serviced by HCL and MMTC.
3. Government are concerned with economic exploitation of copper resources in the country with a view to increase production. For development of Singhbhum Copper Belt in Bihar a study is already on, through a foreign consultant. There is also a proposal to conduct a detailed exploration and feasibility study for integrated development of Malanjkhanda Copper deposits in Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Mandays Created under NREP and RLEGP

2477. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-
NAIK :
SHRI JAGANNATH PATT-
NAIK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of mandays created under the RLEGP and the National Rural Employment Programme in different States, State-wise during 1987-88 ; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). A statement indicating the State/UT-wise details of mandays reported to have been generated during 1987-88 under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) and the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) is given below.

Statement

State/UT-wise details of mandays reported to have been generated under RLEGP and NREP during 1987-88

(lakh mandays) (provisional)

Sl. No.	State/UTs.	RLEGP	NREP
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	249.19	288.34
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.48	2.15
3.	Assam	35.81	33.82
4.	Bihar	379.46	467.58
5.	Gujarat	100.78	172.21
6.	Haryana	18.36	22.15
7.	Himachal Pradesh	16.95	23.36
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	13.46	38.16
9.	Karnataka	191.55	219.31
10.	Kerala	85.32	98.75

1	2	3	4
11.	Madhya Pradesh	284.93	507.36
12.	Maharashtra	231.81	262.23
13.	Manipur	3.22	5.96
14.	Meghalaya	2.58	2.66
15.	Mizoram	1.15	1.32
16.	Nagaland	4.83	4.31
17.	Orissa	188.41	224.99
18.	Punjab	20.73	18.60
19.	Rajasthan	201.03	239.96
20.	Sikkim	3.07	3.70
21.	Tamil Nadu	285.11	322.40
22.	Tripura	10.57	14.98
23.	Uttar Pradesh	515.84	553.51
24.	West Bengal	164.15	155.07
25.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2.23	2.90
26.	Chandigarh	*	0.49
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.01	2.51
28.	Delhi	1.37	1.00
29.	Goa, Daman and Diu	2.47	2.56
30.	Lakshadweep	0.13	1.70
31.	Pondicherry	2.61	3.22
	All India	3020.61	3697.26

* RLEGP not being implemented in the UT of Chandigarh since 1987-88.

Vocational Education for Women

2478. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA :
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation earmarked for Orissa
under the Seventh Plan period for expansion
of vocational education for women ;

(b) if so, the manner in which this
allocation has been utilised during these
years and the additional facilities created
out of it ;

(c) whether expansion programmes have
been envisaged for the next two years ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) There is no separate scheme for vocational education for women. A Centrally-Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education has been started with effect from 1987-88 under which financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs for introduction of vocational courses at +2 level in schools, depending upon their proposals and availability of funds for the Scheme. There is no State-wise allocation of funds for this scheme.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Private Museums

2479. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether many valuable art pieces are still being preserved in private museums ;

(b) if so, how many such museums are there in the country ;

(c) whether Union Government give them regular assistance for their preservation ;

(d) how are these being maintained ; and

(e) whether a national policy will be evolved in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a), (b) and (d). There are over 400 museums in the country, managed by Central Government, State Governments and private bodies. These museums are reported to be in possession of many valuable art pieces and are being preserved by them under the Rules by which they are governed.

(c) and (e). "Museums" is a State subject under the Constitution of India and matters relating to them are primarily concerned with the State Governments. The Central Government, however, considers token grants for preservation of its art treasures whenever an application is made by

a private museum. Further, a Central Advisory Board of Museums considers urgent problems faced by museums from time to time and makes suitable recommendations.

De-addiction Programmes as Part of Curriculum

2480. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to make de-addiction programmes as part of the school/university curriculum ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal to make de-addiction programmes a specific part of the school/university curriculum. Material on the disorders caused by addiction to drugs and alcohol and their harmful effect is included in the curriculum for Secondary and Higher Secondary Classes. Some Universities are also involved in the preparation of material for creation of awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the training of personnel for its prevention.

[Translation]

Fire Incident in Bokaro Steel Plant

2481. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a devastating fire took place in the store of Bokaro Steel Plant on 12 May, 1988 ;

(b) if so, the causes thereof ; and

(c) the details of loss suffered in fire and the safety measures taken in this regard and the responsibility fixed for negligence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE

MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Two fire incidents occurred on May 12, 1988 which were caused by the carbon sparks emitted from the exhaust pipe of locos used for the movement of wagons in Stores.

(c) Bokaro Steel Plant has suffered a total loss of Rs. 13.41 lakhs due to burning/damage of the used and rejected conveyor belts, transformers, valves, etc. in these fires.

The safety measures taken are as follows :

- (i) The Stores Yards/Sheds are kept tidy, free from dust, grass, bushes and other fire hazards ;
- (ii) The water static tanks and Hydrants are periodically checked and fire fighting rehearsals are carried out.

The fire incidents were enquired into by an Enquiry Committee. No official has been held responsible for the outbreak of fires which were found to be accidental.

[English]

Fish Harvest in Alleppey and Ernakulam Districts

2482. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether fish harvest during the 'Chakara' season in places off the Alleppey and Ernakulam districts in Kerala has been on the decline for sometime past ;

(b) whether the decline is due to over-exploitation of the sea fish in the region or due to some other reasons ;

(c) if so, the details thereof and measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ; and

(d) the estimated quantity of fish harvest during the 'Chakara' season in the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (c). Fish harvested during

the 'Chakara' season off Alleppey and Ernakulam Districts have been on the decline for some time past. The 'Chakara' or Mud Bank formation have not been regular during the Monsoon seasons in the recent years due to complex meteorological and Hydrographic factors. The fishing pressure on species such as *Penaeus indicus* and *Matapenacus dobsoni* have also been on the increase in the estuarine and nearshore areas in recent years. These two are the main contributory factors for the decline of catch from 'Chakara'. The Government of Kerala should enforce the Marine Fishing Regulation Act more strictly and also take measures for preventing fishing of juvenile Prawns in estuarine areas.

(d) During the current 'Chakara' season, Mud Bank formation has been very feeble and lasted for only a few days. Daily catch of shrimp was Nil to 200 Kg. per unit and fish catch ranged from 200—700 Kg. per unit of ring seine.

National Commission on Women's Problems

2483. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a 3-day Conference of women which was held in April this year demanded the set up of a National Commission exclusively to deal with their problems ;

(b) whether the Conference also suggested that uniform civil code should be immediately introduced ; and

(c) if so, the other suggestions made and how many of them have been considered by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement is given below. As for Government's reaction, the report of the workshop has been received only on the 3rd August 1988 and as such it is too early for Government to indicate how many of the

suggestions would be considered.

Statement

1. That a thorough inquiry should be instituted by the Central Government into the "poor state of affairs prevailing in the widows" Ashrams in the country, especially at Brindavan, Varanasi and Puri.

2. As majority of the widows at Banaras and Mathura are from Bengal, we urge the West Bengal Government to take effective steps to prevent forced migration of the destitute women and widows to the holy places for refuge.

3. The maintenance allowances doled out to these women at the ashram is too inadequate to sustain them. It should be increased substantially and should be linked with the price index. Also steps should be taken to eradicate corruption and exploitation in distribution system.

4. Temporary shelter homes should be established at rural and unit levels (mohallas) to provide shelter for destitute women in crisis.

5. Inheritance of property right to the deceased husband's property should be given to the widow. Bill on community of property rights should be enacted by which a husband and wife will share all property acquired after marriage both movable and immovable assets equally.

6. There should be reservation of jobs for widows and abandoned women with relaxation of age in Government services.

7. Vocational training facilities for developing and improving skills be created along with job opportunities for widows, abandoned and destitute women.

Action

(a) It was further decided that a meeting in cooperation with the women's group in Banaras and Brindavan will be organised to create awareness among widows about their rights.

(b) The Samiti has decided to fight for cases in the court to get property rights for widows.

8. Riot widows should be provided

with houses free of charge and efforts should be made to give them jobs with adequate remuneration, (to bring up their family as far as possible with the same standard of living that she enjoyed when her husband was alive).

9. Notices issued to the November 1984 riot widows in Delhi by DDA (Delhi Development Authority) to pay Rs. 42,000/- for the flats they were allotted should be withdrawn forthwith.

The above mentioned demands were exclusively for the widows. The women meet made following demands in general as under :

1. Shankaracharya of Puri should be arrested for glorifying Sati and violating the law of this country. All citizens are equal before law and hence Shankaracharya of Puri must be arrested under the law.

2. National Commission on women with statutory powers.

3. Uniform Civil Code to be formulated immediately on the basis of equal justice to both the sexes, taking the best offered in all the personal laws.

4. Repeal of Muslim women's right on Divorce Act.

5. Community of property rights for husband and wife.

Explanation : Sharing equally every kind of property for example, tenancy right, nomination in Insurance policies, provident fund, gratuity amounts and community property and any other acquisition brought about by "Joint Venture". The term "Joint Venture" must be defined to take into account the economic contribution of women's domestic chores. Women must be made independent share holders in the cooperatives for e.g. sugar and dairy cooperatives, they should be treated as separate entities.

6. (a) Right of the wife to the matrimonial home, in the event of estrangement.

(b) Reservation of flats in the housing scheme for single, abandoned and divorcee women and allotment of priority basis.

7. Change in the Hindu law by which

no property holder can will away his property by excluding his nearest relatives such as wife, daughter, widow or daughter-in-law.

8. (a) Removal of loopholes in the daughter's right to ancestral property and coparcenary property. We request the Law Commission to draft bills in the light of our suggestions and demand that the Government should introduce them in the Parliament.

(b) Single unmarried daughter as well as widow, divorcee and separated women should have right of residence in her parental home.

9. The recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 to treat expenditure on marriage beyond the prescribed limit i.e. 30% of the yearly income of the guardian of the bride or Rs. 20,000/- whichever is less be treated as dowry should be incorporated in the Act.

10. Sensitisation of police force to women concerned and to increase female police at all levels.

11. Special women's police cell at every police station to attend to women's complaint with an advisory committee of social workers.

12. Authorising women's organisations to send their representatives at the time of dying declaration in the cases of burnt cases of dowry victims.

13. Evidence Act should be amended.

14. Family courts should be established without delay.

15. The present education is neither empowering women nor is helping them to improve their self image or self confidence as individuals. Sex discrimination must be removed from the school curriculum and books.

16. Role of father should be emphasised and responsibilities of fatherhood must be propagated through education and media.

17. A regular committee to monitor TV programmes so that there is no negative portrayal of women.

18. Serial on 'Adi Sankaracharya' on

TV should be televised only after it is previewed by the women organisation.

19. Central legislation banning Amniocentesis, pre-sex determination tests resulting in female feticide.

20.(a) Role of daughter as the corollary of the parents in old age be emphasised and daughters should be made conscious of the responsibility along with their brothers to accept the responsibility of looking after their old parents.

(b) While demanding equal share in the parental property the logical corollary of sharing the responsibility of maintaining old parents be accepted by women and society.

Actions

A five member committee was set up to draft a charter of demands for the women which will be circulated to concerned organisations by Mahila Dakshata Samiti.

Efforts will be made to enlist request from different States.

It was further resolved that Mahila Dakshata Samiti would try to create awareness in the women about their political strength and urge upon to exercise their right discretely and vote those candidates or parts who would subscribe to their charter of demands.

[Translation]

Maintenance of Ancient Buildings in Rajasthan

2484. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several ancient buildings with architectural beauty in Rajasthan which are more than thousand year old are gradually collapsing in the absence of their proper maintenance ;

(b) whether due to lack of technical know-how the Department of Archaeology of Rajasthan is not taking any interest in the maintenance of those buildings ;

(c) if so, whether Union Government propose to take steps to save these invaluable buildings of Rajasthan ;

(d) if so, the programme chalked out by Government in this regard ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) No monument protected Centrally or by the State is reported to have collapsed in the recent past.

(b) to (e). The State Government of Rajasthan looks after the monuments protected under the State legislation. Archaeological Survey of India gives necessary technical expertise as and when required by the State Government. Besides, the State Government has appointed various Committees under the Chairmanship of Divisional Commissioners to advise the State Government for conservation and preservation of the cultural heritage of the State.

[English]

Denudation of Forests

2485. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any survey to assess the rate of deforestation at the turn of the century and resultant impact on climate ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Institutes offering Computer Courses in Delhi

2486. SHRI VIR SEN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of institutions in Delhi which are offering computer courses ;

(b) the duration of the courses, the standard of training and the fee charged ;

(c) whether the fee charged for the said courses is exorbitant ; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to regulate the fee, so as to be charged at reasonable rates ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) to (d). The Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) is being implemented in schools in Delhi. It is taught at secondary level and no fee is charged for such teaching from the students. All the expenses on procurement of hardware-software, teacher training and school expenses are met by the Government of India under CLASS.

Private schools, not included in CLASS, may be running their own programmes for Computer education but such programmes are not sponsored by the Delhi Administration or the Central Board of Secondary Education and they do not have information about them.

Liaison Officer for SCs/STs in IITs

2487. SHRI VIR SEN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Liaison Officer for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes affairs has been appointed in IIT Delhi and Kanpur, if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. An Assistant Registrar of IIT Delhi and a Professor incharge of Planning and Coordination of IIT Kanpur have been working as Liaison Officers at the respective IITs to look after the interests of SC/ST employees.

(b) Does not arise.

DTC Bus-Queue-Shelters

2488. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Delhi Transport Corporation Bus-Queue-Shelters have been

demolished either by the Delhi Transport Corporation or New Delhi Municipal Committee during the last three years and during the current year ;

(b) if so, the number thereof, year-wise ;

(c) whether the Delhi Transport Corporation constructed alternative Bus-Queue-Shelters in place of demolished ones ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). DTC has intimated that during the last three years and the current year, 108 bus queue shelters, as detailed below, were demolished due to widening of roads, proximity to traffic junctions and other safety considerations :

Year	No. of Bus Queue Shelters
1985-86	3
1986-87	61
1987-88	8
1988-89 (upto July, 1988)	36
	<hr/> 108

(c) to (e). The DTC during these years have constructed 407 bus queue shelters at various locations keeping in view the changes in the traffic pattern.

Action Plan Submitted by Kerala for Development of Paddy Cultivation

2489. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala has submitted any action plan for the development of paddy cultivation ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State of Kerala could not be included under "Special Foodgrains Production Programme Rice" as none of the districts in the State could meet the criteria set out by the Task Force set up for the purpose.

Indo-Yugoslavia Cooperation in Sports

2490. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has been signed with Yugoslavia for cooperation in the field of sports ; and

(b) if so, the details and modalities thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) A Protocol on cooperation in the field of sports and physical culture between India and Yugoslavia for the years 1988-1989 was signed on the 14th July, 1988.

(b) A Statement is given below.

Statement

Indo-Yugoslavia Cooperation in Sports

The Protocol *inter-alia* provides for (i) sending an Indian Officer to study winter sports facilities and their maintenance in Yugoslavia ; (ii) sending of Indian Coaches and athletes to Yugoslavia for participation in clinics and sports events in basketball, boxing, wrestling, chess and athletics ; (iii) services of a Yugoslav expert for winter sports facilities ; (iv) sending to India of Yugoslav athletes for international competition, a coach and a trainer in Greco Roman Style Wrestling, a coach in football and a coach in table tennis for a period of one year ; (v) sending of Yugoslav teams to India in chess and athletics ; and (vi) exchange of literature and films in sports.

2. The various items included in the Protocol will be implemented by mutual consultations and in accordance with the financial terms agreed upon by both the sides.

Co-operation in Farm Projects by Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation with U.K.

2491. **SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation has drawn up a scheme for cooperation between India and the United Kingdom in farm projects ; and

(b) if so, the details and the modalities thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir ; M/s. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) is implementing the Indo-British Fertilizer Education Project (IBFEP) in 30 selected districts in Assam, Bihar, M.P., Orissa, U.P. and West Bengal. The Government of United Kingdom has provided a grant of £ 22.2 million sterling for a period of 5 years from 1st April, 1987. The project aims at educating farmers in scientific fertilizer use with a view to increasing agricultural production and thereby improving the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries. Under the programme small and the marginal farmers in the selected areas are provided 50% subsidy on fertilisers and 30% on plant protection chemicals. Besides, a Rainfed Farming Education Project has been drawn up in 15 water-sheds in Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal.

Promotion of Coconut Products in Kerala

2492. **SHRI K. MOHANDAS :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider and promote processing of coconut products in Kerala which has high export possibility ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : Coconut Development Board,

Cochin has already established a Coconut Technology Development Centre for the development of coconut processing at primary level through cooperative organisations. It also promotes new processing technologies in the fields of product diversification and by-product utilisation. Encouragement is provided to artisans engaged in the manufacture of various products of coconut, of export value under this scheme.

Items of Food Processing in Need of Technology Upgradation

2493. **SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :** Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the items of food processing which are in need of technology upgradation ; and

(b) the extent to which foreign machinery suppliers have been able to provide new technology in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Development of technology is a continuous process and the technology presently being adopted by any industry may have to be upgraded, even by imported technology. In food processing industry also, imported technology has been allowed in selective areas.

Wherever imported machinery has been allowed in the field of Food Processing Industry, a certain degree of new technology has been introduced.

Report of Dr. Parpia Committee on Research and Development

2494. **SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :** Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee was set up for research and development under Dr. H.A.B. Parpia ; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee and the action taken or contemplated thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) :

(a) No, Sir. However, the Development Council for Food Processing Industries whose term expired on 16-7-88 constituted a Panel on Research and Development and Human Resource under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.V. Rao, Special Secretary, Agriculture Research and Education.

(b) The Panel has identified priority areas for research and development activities. Emphasis has been placed on Quality Control and design and development of machinery and equipment for Food Processing Industries. The Panel has also recommended that a co-ordinating mechanism to make use of the existing institutions and facilities in the field of food processing be set up so as to strengthen them wherever required and tune their output to meet the well-identified national needs on the basis of a mission oriented approach. The recommendation made by the panel and its implications will have to be studied by the Government indepth before any further action is contemplated.

Settlement of Gujarat Drought Claims by GIC

2495. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 1987 Gujarat drought claims have not been settled so far by the General Insurance Corporation of India on the ground that they are fraudulent though the claims have been endorsed by the State Government ; and

(b) if so, whether Government will intervene to ensure that the drought victims are not left to the vagaries of the G.I.C. which is reluctant to discharge its obligations while reporting substantial profits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). The indemnity claims under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) for Kharif 1987 season of Gujarat have not yet been settled. The details of the total claims payable have been received by the Government from General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC). Action has been initiated by the Government to settle these claims after

scrutiny. There is no reluctance on the part of G.I.C. to discharge its obligations in administering the CCIS.

Ban on Baby Food Products Advertisement

2496. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether ban on baby food products advertisements is being circumvented ; and

(b) whether any suo moto action has been taken or is proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) and (b). The ban on advertisements of baby food over AIR and Doordarshan is in force since May, 1983. No such case of circumvention has come to the notice of this Ministry. Hence the question of taking action has not arisen.

New Non-Polluting Power Driven Mass Transportation System

2497. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the increasing number of city buses cause rising levels of atmospheric pollution in the urban areas ;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Metallurgical Consultants of India Limited has invented a system of using the energy stored in a fly wheel to run a city mass transportation system ;

(c) whether Government propose to replace these buses by non-polluting power driven mass transportation system ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to introduce this system in various metropolitan cities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Metallurgical and Engineering Con-

sultants (India) Ltd. are working on the development of fly wheel to store energy.

(c) and (d). In the absence of a tested and proven fly wheel, the questions do not arise.

**Sulphuric Acid and Phosphoric Acid
Plant at Paradeep in Orissa**

2498. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in regard to the completion of Sulphuric Acid plant and Phosphoric Acid plant at Paradeep in Orissa ;

(b) when this plant will start functioning ;

(c) what will be the production capacity of the plant ; and

(d) whether it is a joint venture with Nauru and if so, the details of terms and conditions thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) to (c). The progress of implementation of the phosphoric acid plant and the sulphuric acid plant including offsites and material handling facilities of Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. is 89%. The expected commissioning schedule of the sulphuric acid plant with a capacity of 2000 tonnes per day and the phosphoric acid plant with a capacity of 750 tonnes of P 205 per day are September and October 1989 respectively.

(d) Yes, sir ; it is a joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Nauru and their share-holding is 51% and 49% respectively.

12.00 hrs.

**RESOLUTION RE : UNCONDITIONAL
RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA,
THE GREAT FREEDOM FIGHTER
OF SOUTH AFRICA**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I would like to place the following Resolution which I hope the House will adopt unanimously :

"That this House demands the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, the great and noble freedom fighter of South Africa who has, with indomitable courage and unflinching determination, remained true to the case of the South African people despite incarceration in high security prisons for 26 long years.

—Condemns the abhorrent practice of apartheid by the Pretoria regime which denies to the people of South Africa their fundamental human rights and their basic human dignity.

—Calls for an intensification of the international campaign to end the evil of apartheid, in particular through the application of comprehensive mandatory sanctions under Chapter 7 of the Charter of the United Nations against the Pretoria Regime, which is the only means of forestalling an unprecedented blood-bath in which millions may perish.

—Calls upon the international community to mobilise all available means for ensuring that international public remains adequately informed about the atrocities being committed on the people of South Africa by the authorities in Pretoria."

I take it that the Resolution is adopted.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
(Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, We shall adopt

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

it standing. That will show our solidarity and intensity of our feelings.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

*The Resolution was adopted unanimously,
all Members standing.*

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are grateful to hon. Shri Bhajanlal for visiting the flood affected areas of Punjab. But he should inform us as to what relief measures have been taken for flood-affected people of Sangrur, Bhatinda and Patiala ? He has been to Haryana as well. We want to know about the position in Haryana as well...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabor) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, no one pays attention to Assam. Assam is being inundated by flood waters...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : We brought to your notice the need for a discussion on C and AG's para or HDW submarines...

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal, you have already spoken to me about it. I have not objected to it.

[English]

We will put it before the Business Advisory Committee.

[Translation]

Not like this. Please listen to me. You should insist if I do not allow it.

[English]

If there is anything which I object to, I always go by what the Business Advisory Committee and you say. I will put it before

them and they will decide.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : You please allow our Adjournment Motion. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Amal Datta, please read the Rules. In this case Adjournment Motion cannot be allowed. There are certain conditions under which Adjournment Motion is allowed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We had given a notice under Rule 193 as well.

MR. SPEAKER : When have I refused ?

(Interruptions)

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Statement Correcting Reply to SQ No.
1012 dt. 9-5-1988 re : Diversification
by Rashtriya Chemicals and
Fertilisers Ltd.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : I beg to lay on the Table a statement (Hindi and English versions) correcting the reply given on 9th May, 1988 to Starred Question No. 1012 by Shri G.S. Basavaraju regarding diversification by Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Limited.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6383/88]

Notification under Environment (Protection)
Act, 1986

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 488 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 1988 regarding delegation of powers vested under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

to the State Government of Maharashtra, under section 26 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6384/88]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Banaras Hindu University for 1986-87 and statement for delay in laying these papers, Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review on the working of Central Institute of Tibetan Studies, Varanasi for 1986-87 and statement for delay in laying these papers etc. etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAH) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Banaras Hindu University, for the year 1986-87.
- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Banaras Hindu University for the year 1986-87.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6385/88]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Varanasi, for the year 1986-87.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Varanasi, for the year 1986-87 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies,

Varanasi for the year 1986-87.

- (4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6386/88]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh, for the year 1983-84.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh, for the year 1983-84.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh for the year 1982-83 and 1983-84 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) (iii) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6387/88]

Reviews on the working of and Annual Reports of Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd. Bhopal for 1981-82, Punjab Agro Industries Corporation, Chandigarh for 1984-85 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1981-82.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1981-82 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6388/88]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation, Chandigarh, for the year 1984-85.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Agro Industries Corporation, Chandigarh, for the year 1984-85 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6389/88]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1978-79.
- * (ii) Annual Report of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1978-79 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6390/88]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1985-86.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6391/88]

- (2) Four Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6388 to 6391/88]

12.05 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Delhi University (Amendment) Bill, 1988, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th August, 1988."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Amendment Bill, 1988, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th August, 1988."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 1988, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th August, 1988."

BILLS, AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha :

- (1) The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill, 1988
- (2) The Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Amendment Bill, 1988
- (3) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 1988.

12.05½ hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Action Taken Statements

[English]

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum) : I beg to lay on the Table statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of Forty-third Report of Estimates Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha) on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee (Eighth Lok Saba) on the Ministry of Transport—Department of Surface Transport—Congestion in Ports.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : We have given it.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, you are a Member.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : The C and AG has censured the Government. Why should we not have a chance to discuss this Para here? (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This must get priority Sir. (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You kindly read that Sir. You will see how the Government has been censured by the C and AG in its Report. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Give priority Sir. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, you know you are a Member.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are the boss. I am not the boss.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You have to do it or have I to do it?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : Sir, why don't you ask the Government to take it up?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : We demand that it should be on an adjournment motion. (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government of West Bengal has denotified certain industries.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The Government has been censured by the C and AG.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You have to do it or have I to do it?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : There should be a discussion on this.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You please read that and see what the C and AG's Report says...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, inspite of being a sensible person, you are creating confusion.

(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You come to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now Calling Attention. Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The House must be given the opportunity to censure the Government when the C and AG has already done it.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh, please make your submission.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Have you read the Report ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : When have I objected to it ?

[English]

Why are you wasting the time unnecessarily Chowdharyji ? I deplore this tendency on the part of the hon. Members when we have already acceded to their request.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : If the hon. Members do not allow you to speak, it is not my fault. Now you may speak.

(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record whatever these hon. Members say. I am not allowing.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Ramashray Prasad Singhji, you call the Minister's attention, then he will make the statement.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : When are you going to allow a discussion on this ?

MR. SPEAKER : The Business Advisory Committee will decide it. The Business Advisory Committee will do it when it thinks fit. I have got no problem.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you repeating it all the time without rhyme or reason ? You are wasting the time of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Have you read the Report ?

MR. SPEAKER : I have read it. It is you who have to read it because you have to contribute I can't speak.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The West Bengal Government have denotified so many industries. This matter should be discussed in the House. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You bring something.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed anybody except Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh. Only he goes on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, if you give it in writing, I will consider it.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Okay, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. You speak.

12.08 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[Translation]

Reported outbreak of Kala-Azar in various parts of the country

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and request him to make a statement thereon :

"Reported outbreak of Kala-Azar in various parts of the country and the remedial measures taken by Government in that regard."

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTILAL VORA) : Kala-azar is a major public health problem in the States of Bihar and West Bengal. It is spread by the Sandfly vector, which is predominantly seen in the Gangetic belt. The population exposed to risk in the endemic areas is about 40 million. The number of cases and deaths during the last three years is as under :

Year	Cases	Deaths
1985	16,277	42
1986	17,761	72
1987	20,971	103
1988 (upto 27-7-1988)	11,659	47

12.09 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

There has been an increase both in the number of cases and deaths due to Kala-azar during the last three years in the country. Bihar alone accounts for both the increase in the number of cases as well as deaths. The endemic areas comprise of 26 districts of Bihar, 8 districts of West Bengal and 2 districts of U.P. Based on the reported incidence of Kala-azar during the last 10 years, it is clear that there is no outbreak in Bihar or in any part of the country. However, the endemicity of the disease has been established in Bihar and West Bengal. Some of the States like U.P., Assam, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya and Pondicherry have reported sporadic cases.

The Control measures for Kala-azar consists of the following :

- (i) Indoor residual spraying with insecticides (DDT) to interrupt transmission.
- (ii) Health education for disease prevention through improvement of general sanitation in and around the houses to eliminate breeding ground of Sandfly.
- (iii) Case detection and management of all patients.

I am very glad to report that the Government of Bihar has sanctioned a scheme for Rs. 2.46 crores and agreed to contribute Rs. 1.23 crore for Kala-azar control activities. The spraying operations has commenced.

The standard drug of choice for the treatment is sodium antimony gluconate which is manufactured indigenously and is readily available in the market. A few cases may fail to respond to this drug and require imported drug such as Pentamidine Isothionate, which is costly and should be administered under medical supervision. In order to deal with the large number of cases, the Government of Bihar has recently procured 10,000 vials of Pentamidine.

The Government of India has been having periodic consultations with the State Govern-

[Shri Motilal Vora]

ments regarding control of Kala-azar. The Government of India has been providing assistance to the affected States by supplying insecticides out of NMEP budget, arranging supply of drugs, monitoring the incidence and providing necessary technical guidance in addition to frequent visits of officers from NMEP/NICD Directorates to the affected areas. The officers from the States have also been trained by organising courses at the National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi, and the School of Tropical Medicines, Calcutta. The ICMR and NICD have established research Centre and Unit respectively exclusively for Kala-azar.

The need for an integrated approach to control of all vector borne diseases such as Malaria, Filaria, Kala-azar and Japanese Encephalitis was recognised by the Central Council for Health and Family Welfare in the meeting held in February, 1988. Based on the Resolution of the Central Council for Health and Family Welfare, the Government is considering the adoption of control measures for Kala-azar within the outlay approved for the Malaria Eradication Programme. The endemic blocks will be covered under the integrated plan for control of vector borne diseases and will be funded by the State Governments and Government of India in equal proportion.

I would like to assure the Members that the Central Government is constantly monitoring the incidence of Kala-azar and we would be keeping a close watch and intervene where necessary in consultation with the State Governments for adopting control measures. I am grateful to the Members for raising this issue as control of Kala-azar is an integral part in the overall strategy for control of communicable diseases.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in connection with the statement of the hon. Minister regarding Kala-Azar I want to submit that it has been the result of the short-sightedness of the Bihar Government. It is due to the wrong public health policies of the State Government that Kala-Azar is turning into an epidemic in Bihar, Bengal and Assam today. Lakhs of people are suffering from this disease and thousands of them are dying

everyday. The number of deaths given in the Statement, is less than the actual number. These deaths are occurring due to the non-availability of proper medicines. Is the Government aware of the unanimous opinion of the doctors belonging to the All India Medical Association that particularly, the labour class and the poor are exposed to this disease. The Government should also understand that this disease has spread among such people because they are too poor to save their own lives and the members of their families also cannot afford to provide them with best medical aid. Government claims to be the well wisher of the poor. But how far is it true? Even nature has not spared them. In 1985, under the direction of the Central Government, a team of Kala-Azar experts after having consultations with the Planning Commission had recommended that if under the Kala-Azar Control Programme, Kala-Azar is not controlled in time, the situation will become critical and it was also recommended that D.D.T. spraying should be undertaken in every block. It was stated that the total expenditure will come to Rs. 8.64 crores out of which Central Government will provide Rs. 4.5 crores. But the State Governments have refused to provide their share on the plea that they are in financial crisis and therefore, they cannot afford it. In this connection it has been stated that the State Governments have started spraying work. So far we are in the dark about it. Facilities for the correct diagnosis of Kala-Azar are neither available in the primary health centres nor at the district hospitals and in regard to medicines you have stated that 10 thousand vials have been purchased. This medicine is manufactured in England and its cost in the black market Rs. 2000 per vial. The victims of this disease cannot afford to pay Rs. 2000. The second medicine which is to be administered is given according to weight and if one injection is given every day, it would take 40 days for the course to be completed. This medicine used to be sold at Rs. 2 per vial in 1976 and now the cost is Rs. 40. You can imagine as to how much the cost has escalated. Kala-Azar is particularly endemic in Bihar, Bengal and Assam. It has even spread to areas like Jahananabad, Gaya, Bhojpur, Sasaram etc. It was stated that this disease has been controlled. But you can see the condition of the people. The

report which has been submitted should be studied in its proper perspective. According to my information 13024 people in 1985, 14 thousand people in 1986, 17,500 people in 1987 died in this epidemic. But according to your figures the number of deaths were only 200 or 250.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : One thousand people have died in my constituency alone.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : He has misled the House by giving incorrect figures. I want to request him that this matter should not be left to the State Government. The Central Government should help the States because the labour class and other poor are dying in thousands. This is the time to test whether the Government is the well-wisher of the poor or not. If the Central Government helps them we will be convinced that it is serious about the upliftment of the poor. This is our request to you. Please do not leave this task in the hands of the State Governments. If this is done, the poor cannot be saved. They can't even afford medicines. A survey should be conducted. A survey was conducted by the World Health Organisation in 1970. At that time, 5 lakh people were estimated to have been affected but considerable time has passed since then. Now it is time to see as to how many more people have been affected by this epidemic.

(English)

SHRI C.P. THAKUR (Patna) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I wish to call the attention of the hon. Minister to the pitiable condition of the story of Kala-Azar in Bihar and its adjoining States.

The story of Kala-Azar is a story of neglect, carelessness and inefficiency. Kala-Azar disappeared from India in 1950 not due to any active effort but because of a side effect of malaria eradication programme. Then, Dr. Charles Napier who was working in Tropical School in Calcutta predicted that this epidemic will recur every fifteen years. Since then, no effort was taken to prevent this epidemic. In early '70s, one Doctor from Raj Mahal Block in Vaishali District reported a large number of cases of enlarge-

ment of liver, spleen and fever in that area and reported to the Health Department about this. But they did not take any notice of that. In 1977, there were at least one hundred thousand cases of Kala-Azar in Bihar only. This was one fourth of the total cases of Leishmaniasis, which is occurring in the world. Seven per cent of the people have died due to this disease. This was the survey conducted by NICD and others. National Press also highlighted this. Then, the Government, WHO and other agencies came to the help of Bihar Government and started this spraying programme. Then the disease came down a little. After sometime, spraying was discontinued. This created a rise in the case of Kala-azar. Almost all districts in Bihar are affected by Kala-azar. It entered into West Bengal. Now it has entered into West Bengal, U.P. and Nepal also.

As one hon. Member has pointed out, this scheme is beyond the capacity of the State Government. So, the Central Government should take over the control of the whole programme. The traditional treatment for Kala-azar is, antimony treatment should be given for six days. This was very inadequate. We suggested that the treatment should be prolonged. There was an expert committee meeting in ICMR. But they did not agree. They suggested that there should be ten days gap between the two courses of ten days treatment. We from Patna reported recently that the treatment should be given at least for forty days. Now, WHO has accepted our recommendation. In the recent article, we suggested that this treatment should be given for at least not less than forty days.

The first line drug antimony was manufactured by five companies in India, three from Bihar and two from West Bengal. Three companies of Bihar have discontinued manufacturing this drug. Only Albert David of Calcutta and Gluconate are manufacturing this drug. Therefore, this drug fell short. In 70s, it was costing only Rs. 2/- per vial. Now it is selling at Rs. 33/- or Rs. 34/-. We suggested that this drug should be given at least for thirty days.

This means spending of Rs. 6 per day or Rs. 180/- per month besides coming and going to the doctor. This is beyond the

[Shri C.P. Thakur]

capacity of the poor people of Bihar. You know, in per capita income Bihar is the lowest in the country. And poorer sections of society are affected by this. The people are dying not in hundreds but in thousands. Nobody would have liked that cholera should erupt in Delhi. But 250 and odd persons died in Delhi and many heads rolled. And in Bihar thousands of persons are dying—in steamer accident they die in hundreds, by Kala-azar they die in thousands—nobody is stirred by these deaths in Bihar. I would like the Minister to take note of this and I hope, he will do something for Bihar.

Regarding pentamidine, it was raised last year and we were assured that the drug would be made available. There was a question in this House. Since then the Bihar Government also assured that the drug would be made available. Now one course of this drug is available in black-market in Rs. 4000 to Rs. 5000. So they cannot afford the second line drug like pentamidine or lemidine. If the Government wants, these drugs can be imported within two days or within 24 hours because Mayer and Baker Company has got its branches here also. There may be a difficulty in getting lemidine because that is manufactured by a French company which perhaps, is not doing business here.

Kala-azar is the problem of India. Much research work should have been done. But so far ICMR and other agencies which are the white elephants of the Government of India, are doing nothing. They have done nothing on Kala-azar. The credit goes to China because they have at least discovered some medicine for malaria. But a country like ours which has got a large number of doctors, scientists and institutions, has done nothing in this field.

The Central Government has got two units in Bihar. One is the Rajendra Memorial Institute which has been taken over by the Central Government. We thought that this Institute will come up and help the people suffering from tropical diseases like Kala-azar, malaria, etc. in Bihar. Again they also joined the same herd of white elephants. Another unit is the Kala-azar unit. But in spite of that, nothing is

happening. If I say 75,000 are affected by this disease, it is just a guess work. Whatever the figures the hon. Minister has given, it is just paper report. No survey, nothing of that kind has been done. I would request the hon. Minister that the whole scheme should be taken over by the Central Government. There should be Kala-azar control programme. Drugs like pentamidine and lemidine should be made available. Research work on Kala-azar should be stepped up. If we depend on America or England and other countries for doing research on tropical diseases, it is shameful for us.

Since the people who are affected, are very poor, they have got no means to travel long distances. Some five or six advance centres at Patna, Dharbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Purlia and one in West Bengal, should be opened so that those patients who have become resistant to Kala-azar, to first-line drug, they should be treated.

Previously it was suggested by some foreign doctors that only six days treatment of this disease is adequate. This belief is still prevailing in mofussil and rural areas. They give drugs only for six days or nine days or ten days. And the patient becomes unresponsive to drugs. Next time, they do not respond to the first line drug. Therefore, there should be wide publicity from the Central Government that these drugs should be given at least for 20 days, and if these are given for 30 days, it is all the better. Antimony should be provided to all block dispensaries in Bihar and West Bengal and some portion of UP where this disease has erupted. This requires very urgent attention of the Central Government.

Last year many people came to me and I promised them that lemidine or the pentamidine will be made available very soon because there was a question here in the Parliament. One year has passed and now they have come again to know when will this drug be available. So, certainly they have lost faith in most of the legislators, in most of the Parliamentarians sitting here. They feel that we cannot do anything. They have lost faith even in the Government of Bihar because they have not been able to provide medicines. I wish they should not lose faith in this Parliament, in this august body. So, here I call the attention of the

Minister and urge upon him to assure that the drugs will be made available and the whole thing will be taken over by the Central Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Kala-azar is posing a serious problem in the country. It has already spread in many States of the country and it is gradually spreading further. As the hon. Minister has also said, it has affected many parts of Bihar. As per the official figures, 24 out of 40 districts are affected. But, I think it has affected all the 40 districts in Bihar. If we take Statewise figures, we find that despite the preventive measures it is increasing every year. But, these are the official figures, position appears to more worse there.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my constituency is a flood effected area where the soil is damp. Almost all the villages in my constituency are affected by this deadly disease. The official figures are 39 cases in 1985 while the real figures are 13029 cases.

I think thousands of people have died of it. The incidences reported are like this ; 14079 cases in 1986, 17045 in 1987 and 5 thousand cases till April 1988, out of which 14 have died. But these figures are not correct.

Hon. Minister may kindly visit the place, then he will find that so many people are suffering from Kala-azar in the villages. He has stated that preventive measures have been taken, which include spraying and arrangement of insecticides etc. You are arranging medicines and the doctors, but I want to tell you that there is no proper medicine to control this disease. Doctors, have prescribed 'Pentamedine', but it is not manufactured indigenously, it is imported. The medicine has not reached the interior villages where it should have been available. One who suffers from this disease dies because of non-availability of medicine there. He leaves the village and comes to the district headquarter where also there are no arrangements. Thus, the people are dying in agony. You have told in your

reply that disease has broken out in 24 districts like Patna, Nalanda, Bhojpur, Siwan, Gopalganj, Samastipur, Gorakhpur, Kalihar etc. But I say that Kala-azar has broken out in all the 40 districts of Bihar. There is no cure for it. It is a very painful thing. The Government, therefore should open at least one health centre at the affected place exclusively for the treatment of Kala-azar patients. Medicines also be sent there so that the poor people can be saved from death due to Kala-azar.

A unit to treat Kala-azar is already functioning in Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Institute and a considerable amount of money is being spent on it. I have not seen any other institute for the treatment of this deadly disease. Officers, and the director of the Rajendra Prasad Memorial Institute prepare figures while sitting in their houses and submit them to the hon. Minister. But I can say with confidence that the figures given by them are not correct. I asked to take them to the affected places, but they did not agree to it. Neither do they try to go nor do they attend any patient and thus they are neglecting them. The Government is spending 37 lakhs to 50 lakhs per year, but no benefit is accruing out of it. The hon. Minister said that medicines are being sent but Malaria and Filariasis have also broken out along with Kala-azar. It is a flood affected area, Malaria was eradicated but it has again broken out and is spreading fast. The hon. Minister agreed to it that there are many medicines which do not have any effect.

At present, there are many medical companies which are manufacturing spurious medicines and are selling them. Vials bearing the name of medicine meant for Kala-azar contains the medicine meant for the treatment of cholera.

You have said in the House in reply to one of my questions that there are 14 bogus medical companies which are manufacturing bogus medicines. The Government conducted raids and these companies engaged in manufacturing of spurious medicines were unearthed but no action has so far been taken against them. The medicines supplied by 'Gratus Pharma' were found to be fake in Safdarjang Hospital and still no action has been taken against the firm. Similar is

[Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan]

the case with Civil Drug Laboratories, Alpines, Associated Pharma, B.R. Surgicals, Subhas Trading, Agarwal Pharmaceuticals etc. The medicines supplied by these firms have been found to be spurious but no action has been taken against them so far. This was the reply of the Minister in the House and hon. Speaker had ruled that action should be taken against them but no action has been taken so far.

Besides, I would like to give certain suggestions. Medicines for the treatment of Kala-azar should be sent without delay so that the poor people may get proper treatment. At present these medicines are available in black market which they cannot afford to purchase.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have given this Calling Attention Notice because I know that the diseases Kala-azar which has broken out in Bihar, West Bengal, Assam at present will break out in Madhya Pradesh tomorrow. The turn of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa will come next. I know it. I submit that this is a type of disease, for which, as stated by Shri Thakur, we should adopt a similar programme as adopted for Malaria eradication during fifties and sixties, this does not need I.C.M.R. to open a research centre in Bihar. People like us, who are not doctors ; do not know much about the disease. We do go through the literature. I will request the hon. Minister that he should go through the Encyclopaedia and find out as to what this disease is. Is it restricted to our country only ? It has appeared in South America and West Africa. This disease has appeared again after 20 to 25 years at the places where had been the incidences of Malaria and the disease was eradicated by spraying D.D.T. It does not require any research work to be undertaken. The Government should spend more money on it because it has to be eradicated. Rs. 2 crore is a

meagre sum. Bihar Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 2 crore and also arranging for medicines. This will not eradicate the disease. Medicines for this disease should be heavily subsidised.

[English]

The Central Government must subsidise this particularly costly medicines Pentamidine.

[Translation]

'Pentamidine', which is a costly medicine, should be subsidised by the Central Government upto 90 per cent. Otherwise the result will be that this disease will spread in the entire country. There is great similarity between this disease and Malaria. There is enlargement of spleen in this disease. I have seen 2-3 cases where the stomach bulges out. If spleen expands then no medicine will prove effective.

Secondly this disease spreads specially among the tribals. This disease spreads out on the tribal areas of Bihar and Assam, and then covers the entire tribal area because of too much of flies there.

There was a time when we thought that the tribals were dying of Malaria and due to that their population was decreasing. We imported DDT in 1950 in huge quantity in order to eradicate Malaria from the country. D.D.T. powder was not being manufactured indigenously at the time. We have spent crores of rupees on it. We thought that we have succeeded in eradicating it but it was not so. This was a success in one generation, but the disease appeared in another form in the next generation. It is a deadly disease. I would like to say that the Government should not shirk in spending more money. The medicine for the treatment of the disease should be heavily subsidised. Besides, we should make efforts to study the steps taken in South Africa to control this disease. After such a study is made we should take all possible steps to control this disease. This is my request to you.

[English]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : I should be

given two minutes, Sir, to speak on this.

(English)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Sir, you please allow him to speak on this very important subject.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.S. KHIRHAR (Sitamarhi) : Sir, I may be given a chance to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record except that of the Minister. You take your seat. I cannot deviate from the rules.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When I called you, you were absent. Okay, I will give you one minute. You may speak.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Last time, you allowed him. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is an exception.

(Interruptions)

SHRI R.S. KHIRHAR (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the subject under discussion i.e. Kala-azar is a matter of great concern. I hail from the northern end of Bihar which is adjacent to the border of Nepal. Our area is always struck by floods or drought and comes especially in the grip of floods every year. Its adjacent districts such as Motihari, Darbhanga and Madhubani also fall a prey to drought every year. They are very low lying areas and water logging takes place there. Therefore such an epidemic spreads there almost every year. So far as Kala-azar is concerned, 14 people died of this disease in my Assembly segment Sonrasa during last July. When the officials there were requested to spray insecticide, they visited the spot for the same. I do not intend to create any doubt about the efficiency of Bihar Government or the Central Government but the quality of the spraying material sent there was too inferior to kill even a single fly. Later on a huge rally was held in its protest. God knows whether the insecticide was genuine or mere an ordinary powder. It should be investigated as to what kind of powder was it and it should be probed whether the insecticide which was sprayed there was genuine or not and if it was genuine then why was it so ineffective. The life and the property of the poor people there have been risked. Even today, this epidemic is terribly spread in those areas and in North Bihar. I do not know whether the Government will pay attention to these points? I hope that you will hold enquiries from the Bihar Government without delay and a solution should be sought out.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Don't waste time. Listen to the Minister.

(Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please, Order.

[Translation]

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, hon. Members Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh, Dr. C P Thakur, Shri Paswan, Shri Madhav Reddi and Shri R.S. Khirhar have expressed deep concern over spread of Kala-azar. I share their deep concern because this epidemic is not confined to West Bengal and Bihar alone but has affected many other States also.

I have furnished the figures after getting all the information fully verified. I am happy to inform, as I said that the Health Secretary and some officials of the Bihar Government were summoned to Delhi only yesterday and they have accepted what the Central Government had said a few months back and the medical council had given a suggestion that the Central Government should provide matching assistance to the State for the prevention of Kala-azar. The West Bengal Government agreed to the proposal then and there. It has not been mentioned in the State Budget the amount which has been allocated for the purpose but it was clearly stated yesterday that the State Government

[Shri Motilal Vora]

Government was proposed to provide an amount of Rs. 1,23,00,000 immediately and that the Central Government will also provide an equal amount of the State Government as its share. The assistance will be provided to all the State Governments in the same proportion and such instructions have been issued with regard to all the areas from where complaints of Kala-azar are received. On the basis of these instructions, it can be said that the State Governments of Bihar and West Bengal have paid attention to it and I can say on behalf of the Central Government that we have also taken this subject quite seriously.

I do not want to go in the controversy with regard to number of persons died due to it. The main issue is that we have to check the spread of Kala-azar at any cost. Death due to it is painful for all of us. A malaria eradication programme was started in our country. The Government had made a provision of Rs. 370 crores in the Seventh Five Year Plan for eradication of malaria and filaria. An amount of Rs. 3359300000 for the eradication of malaria and Rs. 6 crores, 26 lakh for the eradication of filaria has been given to these State Governments during these four years.

Besides, I would also like to submit that the amount which was given to Bihar in the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 should also be utilised. I fully agree with Shri Madhav Reddi that this epidemic spreads chiefly among the tribal and the poor people and since the medicines for its cure are quite expensive they are unable to make use of them. Due to the lack of adequate provision of these medicines in the Primary Health Centres, proper treatment is not provided and a few days back Shri Paswan informed me about out-break of Kala-azar in Bihar on a large scale. The Central Government had sent a team of experts in Bihar. After inspection of local Primary Health Centres, it was found that there was scarcity of medicines at some places. The appointment of the Malaria Officers have not been made in the required number. It has also been concluded after inspection that a provision of the medicines which should be available at Primary Health Centres, should also be made. Yesterday only, the Health Secretary

has informed that the Government has undertaken a massive programme for the spray of D.D.T. and this programme will be undertaken in two stages between 1st July and October.

As I said earlier, as many as 10 thousand vials of Pentamidine have been procured by them for the control of Kala-azar (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : I have a point of order.

[English]

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kalia-bor) : I am on a point of order. I want a clarification.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No point of order. Not allowed.

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Under what rule ? No. Nothing on record.

[Translation]

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : This team left on 3rd July. Dr. A.N. Chakravarty, the Assistant Director incharge Kala-azar unit visited Patna and made on the spot enquiry at Rajmer, Taljhakari, Parihar etc. (*Interruptions*).

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : This is an eye wash. Thousands of people are dying in my constituency.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : As the hon. Member said...(*Interruptions*). The hon. Members are aware...(*Interruptions*) I want to assure the hon. Members that a team will be sent again by the Central Government to the places mentioned by them.

I want to extend my thank to Dr. Thakur for the information given by him. He has done a great job in the direction of preventing Kala-azar. As Shri Madhav Reddi said that medicines can be made available at a very cheaper price. We are paying attention not only to research but also to the fact as to what other steps should be taken to prevent this epidemic. We have issued orders

as per Dr. Thakur's directions.

[English]

The State authorities are being informed that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has accepted the findings of the trial conducted by Dr. Thakur for taking appropriate administrative action regarding the duration. The drug is available in adequate quantities at all levels of Health services in Bihar. Only proven drug resistant cases need be given Pentamidine. Supplies of Pentamidine reach Calcutta. I am really thankful to Dr. Thakur who has done a very valuable and commendable work in the field of Kala-Azar. We hope that we will be able to take up this issue with the State Government of not only Bihar but also with all the State Governments in the country where there are cases of Kala-Azar.

Sir, a number of suggestions have been made by hon. Members also. I want to assure them that we will definitely take action as Shri Madhav Reddiji, Shri Paswanji and all other hon. Members have suggested. They have suggested about the number of actions to be taken. We are going to take action on those lines also. Anxiety has been shown by our hon. Members belonging to Bihar, West Bengal and others also. We are concerned about it. We will take concrete action to eradicate Kala-Azar.

[Translation]

I would once again thank all the hon. Members, especially Dr. Thakur for performing such a grand task. We are not only considering but are making research about it also. Whatever Dr. Thakur has done in this regard deserves appreciation and I feel that if we provide vaccine and medicines to the poor tribal people at a low price then we will certainly be able to prevent it in the near future and cure it properly. Therefore, I would like to thank Dr. Thakur through you.

12.56 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Need for strict implementations of order banning certain drugs

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, though fixed EP combination drugs were banned on June 15, 1988, they still continue to be available across the counter in many drug shops. In Maharashtra, consumer group had to approach the High Court to force the Government to get the drug withdrawn. This shows that there is a gap of many weeks between the ban on a drug and its withdrawal from the market, during which chemists make a fast-buck playing on the gullibility of the public. It is also seen that while the fixed dose Estrogen-Progesterone drug is banned in tablet form, it still remains available and sold in injectible forms. Thus the very reason why the drug has been banned remains flouted. There is conspicuous lack of earnestness in implementing the ban on dangerous drugs. The Government can achieve the aims of such ban on irrational drugs and harmful ones only when it simultaneously forces the manufacturers on severe penalty to withdraw their stocks from the market.

- (ii) Need to formulate Master Plan for development of Inland Navigation in Orissa

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK (Jagat-singhpur) : Sir, the State of Orissa is endowed with rivers, lakes and creeks with perennial flow. At present, the usage of the waterways has been limited to operation of some passenger launch services in the Chilka Lake, Chandabali, Aradi and Rajanagar. The proposal for the introduction of launch services on Satpada-Nuapada route is under the consideration of the Government. Still there is tremendous scope for introduction of launch services on some other routes like Balimela Reservoir and from Chandabali to Talchuna in the river Brahmani. The State Government of Orissa has requested the Inland Waterways Authority of India to approve and sanction funds for survey of navigational potential in Mahanadi from Dholpur to Cuttack and for development of Orissa Coast Canal. It is requested that it should

[Shri Lakshman Mallick]

be approved and sanctioned at an early date. There is a great scope of cargo movement from Talcher to Madras through river Brahmani via Paradeep. The Inland Waterways Authority should take immediate steps in this direction. I demand that Master Plan for long-term development should be formulated and implemented for the development of the Navigational sections in Orissa for passengers and goods traffic forthwith.

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

- (iii) Need to lay the proposed railway line from Rewa to Sultanpur via Amethi

SHRI RAJ KARAN SINGH (Sultanpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there was a proposal to lay a new railway line from Rewa to Sultanpur via Manikpur and Amethi, but the above proposal has been shelved for some reasons. Once this line is laid, it will give North India a direct link with south bound trains and will also benefit thousands of pilgrims visiting Manikpur who have to cover a long distance to reach there for a holy dip in the Ganga. The above proposal may please be re-considered and the railway line laid from Rewa to Sultanpur via Manikpur and Amethi. At the same time, Sultanpur-Shahganj line via Kadirpur may also be connected with this line, because Kadirpur tehsil of Sultanpur district has not so far been covered by a railway line. It will be an effective step in the public interest.

- (iv) Demand for a medical college in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI NANDLAL CHOUDHARY (Sagar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the citizens of Sagar city in Madhya Pradesh have all along been demanding since 1946, i.e. prior to achievement of independence opening of a medical college in the city. A similar demand was also made to the Central Government and the State Government by Dr. Hari Singh Gaur, the founder of Dr. Hari Singh Gaur University, Sagar and a great philanthropist. A strong agitation had also been launched by the citizens jointly with the students of Sagar division during the earlier years of 1960's. An assurance to this effect had been given at that time, but the medical college has not so far been established. The citizens of Sagar district

and the students of Sagar division are again planning to launch a joint agitation demanding establishment of a medical college in Sagar. The students came to New Delhi last month and submitted a memorandum to the Union Minister of Health.

Sagar is the headquarters of Sagar Division. Dr. Hari Singh Gaur University is located in Sagar and the citizens as well as the students badly feel the absence of a medical college in and around Sagar.

It is, therefore, requested that a Medical College may please be established in Sagar.

- (v) Need to set up dairy farms in backward areas of the country

SHRI GANGA RAM (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Netherland and Switzerland have strengthened their economies with the help of milch cattle. In our country the National Dairy Development Council at Anand, a famous place in Gujarat has done a laudable work. It has expanded Dairy Development Schemes in cities like Bhopal, Calcutta and Delhi and these schemes have become very successful. Recently a sub-committee of M.Ps. visited Gujarat to study the successful implementation of cooperative programme being run in the State. During the course of this visit, we had the opportunity to see the Dairy Development Plant at Anand and talk to the concerned authorities. We were very much impressed by their performance. It is our conviction that if this scheme is implemented vigorously in other parts of the country, we can strengthen our economy with the help of milch cattle. This scheme will prove a boon to big, small and marginal farmers, farm labourers and people belonging to weaker sections. Giant Dairy Plants with the help of National Dairy Development Council may please be set up in dacoit infected Chambal valley of Agra district, backward areas of Fatehabad, Kheragarh and Shikohabad and other regions of the country where people are stricken with rampant poverty. The Ministry of Agriculture is requested to take suitable and effective action in this regard.

[English]

- (vi) Need to consider the demands of Shram Parishad, a constituent of Asom Gana Parishad

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabor) : Sir, the workers and office-bearers

of Shram Parishad, a constituent of Asom Gana Parishad, staged a Dharna at the Boat Club yesterday and submitted a charter of demands to the Prime Minister. They also demanded that the Assam Accord be implemented at the earliest. The demands included therein are mostly for the welfare of labour and working class.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to consider the charter of demands and have the labour laws amended accordingly, particularly the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, so that the prevailing discontentment among the labour class is removed.

- (vii) Need to provide adequate financial assistance to Mohini Mills Ltd. to save it from closure

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Mohini Mills Limited of Belgharia, West Bengal, of which Kabiguru Rabindra Nath Tagore was the Founder Director and which had the blessing and inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi also in the wake of non-cooperation movement is being liquidated by the Government of India only for non-repayment of bank loan. This loan was taken by the private management before its take-over by the National Textile Corporation.

One thousand seven hundred workers will be unemployed and they will have to face starvation and misery along with their family members without any fault of theirs. It is well-known that the mill's performance was very good in comparison to other mills managed by NTC in West Bengal. Moreover it enjoys traditional reputation and goodwill for its products throughout Eastern India. I urge upon the Government to save this mill by providing adequate financial support to make it viable.

13.06 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE :
DISAPPROVAL OF RELIGIOUS
INSTITUTIONS (PREVENTION OF
MISUSE) ORDINANCE, 1988
AND
RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS (PRE-
VENTION OF MISUSE) BILL—
Contd.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up items 9 and 10 together and further discussion on the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Vijoy Kumar Yadav on the 10th August, 1988 and further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Buta Singh on the 10th August, 1988. Shri G.M. Banatwalla to continue.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Deputy-Speker, it is tragic that today this House has been called upon to consider the Bill for the Prevention of Misuse of Religious Places. It was these very religious places which had made a significant contribution to the nationalist movement during the freedom struggle.

Sir, the Anti-British Sikh Movement was based in gurudwaras. That was the role of gurudwaras during those days. Institutions of higher Islamic learning of world repute like Deoband and others were citadels of nationalist movement. From those days when these religious institutions made a significant contribution to the nationalist movement to the present Bill which seeks to prevent misuse of religious institutions, is a sad commentary on the management of the political affairs of our country by the powers that be.

This new law states that no religious place can be used for harbouring any criminals, for storing arms and ammunition and goods in contravention of any law for carrying on of any unlawful, subversive activities for acts which promote disharmony, enmity etc., for any act prejudicial to sovereignty, unity and integrity of India and so on. But we already have a comprehensive and sufficient legal code for all

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

this purpose. There are already sufficient laws to deal with all these activities. We have, for example, Section 153 (a) and Section 153 (b) of the Indian Penal Code. We have the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 to deal with both the associations and the individuals indulging in all these unlawful activities. We have punishment for corrupt practice under the People's Representation Act, Section 123. As far as Indian Penal Code is concerned, it was amended in the year 1969 to add Section 153 (a), sub-section (2) which is specially about the misuse of religious places.

I must point out that there are not only sufficient laws to deal with all these purposes but the existing laws are even more stringent than the provisions of the Bill that are today being discussed by this House.

Under Clause 7 of the Bill which we are discussing a guilty is punishable for a term up to five years and a fine up to Rs. 10,000. But what do the existing laws say? Under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 under Section 5 : "a guilty is punishable for a term up to seven years and liable to a fine without any maximum limit.

What are then we doing? We are watering down the provisions. If I make a speech and incite communal frenzy I may go in for a term of seven years; but if I as a manager of any religious institution indulge in the same act, the punishment under this Bill will be reduced and it will be five years! And the claim here being made is that the Government wants to deal with all these activities with an iron hand. I therefore submit that the Bill is not only redundant in these matters, but it is also retrograde in nature.

No religious institution today is above all those existing laws which I have just enumerated. What is lacking is the political will. There are several laws against incitement of communal frenzy. But the communal history of our country knows of no

occasion when these laws have been effectively invoked. Such is the state of affairs.

The Bill is not only redundant and retrograde in character, but I submit that the Bill is highly deceptive and a fraud on the people. The mischief of the Bill travels far beyond the mere prevention of criminal and illegal acts, which acts are already punishable with more stringent provisions under the existing laws. It travels far beyond this.

Clause 3 seeks to prohibit the use of religious institutions for political activity. In the definition of the expression 'political activity', the definitional net is cast far too wide leaving several unresolved questions on hand. Clause 2 (d) defines the political activity to include not only activity promoting the objects of a political party and election activity, but also activity promoting any cause, issue or question of a political nature. What do you mean by this word 'political nature'? The expression 'political issue' is highly vague and breeds confusion. The ambit of political activity is therefore extremely and highly flexible and the rights of citizens are put at the mercy of the policemen and the judges whose notions may vary according to their whims and fancies. Even a reference to an Islamic teaching that the strength of *iman* inter-alia lies on raising voice against the tyranny of an autocrat, even such a reference may be deemed a political issue and may come within the clutches of the Bill. I therefore say that the expressions 'political nature or issue of a political nature' is too vague to be enforced and is therefore unconstitutional.

I may refer to AIR 1940 Bombay 76 in Subhas Chandra Bose versus Goardhandas. The court not only reiterated the principle that a matter must be expressed in sufficiently clear language so that the courts may be able to enforce it, but also held that the term 'political uplift' was vague and unenforceable.

Take another aspect of the whole thing. The provisions are also violative of Article 25 (2) of the Constitution. The Article allows regulation or restriction of secular or

political activity which may be associated with religious practice. But what is allowed? You are allowed to regulate or restrict but there cannot be a total ban. A total ban on expression of opinion in a religious institution on a question of political nature cannot, therefore, be imposed. There may be some regulations or restrictions but not a total ban in the manner in which this vague definition comes before us and we are asked to pass this Bill. I, therefore, submit the Bill is not only redundant and retrograde in character but it is highly deceptive.

We are told the Bill is brought in the context of separation of religion and politics. A lot of hullabaloo is being made on this particular count. The hon. Home Minister in his statement also says that the law is in the context of separation of religion and politics. Gandhiji said that those who talk of separation of religion and politics do not know what religion is. Gandhiji further said that religion must guide politics otherwise politics may turn immoral. Society needs religion. Religion ennobles and enriches our lives. Religion is the preserver of moral values and the teacher of wisdom. Without religion and the restraints of the moral values enshrined in the religion man turns a beast. Religion holds an exalted position in our lives. Even in the USA each House of the Congress starts with the prayer through its Chaplain: So help me God. The Supreme Court there opens with the prayer: God save the court. The motto 'In God we trust' is inscribed on currency, public documents and public buildings. It is, therefore, those who may want their desires to be fulfilled without restraint and those who may want to corrupt society want to separate religion from politics.

I may submit that both religion and politics deal with the conduct of man. Now where the sphere of one ends and the sphere of the other begins cannot be precisely laid down. In Islam life is an indivisible unity in which the spiritual and the mundane are not sundered. I must say here that Islam gives a complete code of conduct. Now to say that one is a Muslim in a mosque and must not remain a Muslim in a market-place

or in his dealings with other people, to say so is nothing but apostasy in disguise.

I must, in deference to your restlessness and ringing of the bell conclude and submit that the form in which the Bill has been presented, the form which the Bill assumes is a fatal camouflaged assault on the right to propagate, profess and protect religion as religion may be understood by the people belonging to the various denominations. With these words I strongly oppose the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Roseria) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Bill, 1988, which has been brought forward by the hon. Minister. Sant Vinoba Bhave during his discourse on Geeta had said that committing a sin was not that much dangerous as it was danger to indulge in hypocrisy in the matter of religion. If fanaticism and hypocrisy enter religion, it will definitely prove fatal to the human society.

The hon. Minister has concentrated his attention on the religious institutions which have been misused by the terrorists in Punjab. Obviously, those religious institutions in Punjab, where bombs, rockets and various kinds of arms and ammunition had been kept and where innocent people were killed have proved fatal to the human society. Under these circumstances effective control must be exercised on those religious institutions from where serious blows are given to humanity in the name of religion, atrocities are committed and innocent people are killed. Labourers who had gone to Punjab from Bihar for earning livelihood were killed brutally. Today their widows and other members of their family are facing starvation and are begging alms. As such these religious institutions where hypocrisy and arrogance have become the practice of the day must be abolished.

Sir, Puri seer, the Shankaracharya is giving a serious blow to 25 crore Harijans and 12 crore Adivasis in the name of religion. Sir, no scripture, be it the Bible,

[Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan]

the Quaran, the Ramayan or the Geeta has any sanction to this affect. All great saints raised their voice for love to humanity and for mutual love and harmony. But today Niranjn Dev is giving a serious blow to the unity and integrity of our country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the present Bill will prevent him from his pursuit? Will it be equally applicable to him also? A large number of amendments and acts are being passed in this House, but practically, these are not being implemented properly. We should, therefore, find some way out to ensure that laws passed in this House are properly used.

I would like to tell the hon. Minister that one-third of the country's population consists of Harijans and Adivasis and they are the backbone of this country. They are doing very important work. They are building sky rising buildings. But today Niranjn Dev Maharaj is committing atrocities on them. He is spreading hatred against them in the society. I, therefore, request you to bring an amendment which would provide action against those who spread hatred in the society in the name of religion and who are giving serious blows to the unity and integrity of the country. Religious fundamentalism, casteism, untouchability, discrimination and hypocrisy are giving serious blows to the unity and integrity of the country. I request you to exercise strict control over these people.

Now-a-days very serious assaults are being made on the people of the country in the name of religion. Large number of temples have been built. These temples have been built in the name of religion. There are large number of temples in Bihar where Harijans and Adivasis are not allowed entry even today. They are prohibited to enter the temples. When Dr. Krishna was the Chief Minister of Bihar, he had entered the Baijnath temple alongwith Harijans. But the temple authorities misbehaved with women when they entered the temple alongwith them. Is it religion? Such institutions which give serious blows to the society in the name of religion should be closed forthwith. These

hypocrites should be awarded stringent punishment so that they may not create hatred among men and men and hurt the unity and integrity of the country in any way.

Today the females and the Harijans are the worst victims. Females have been termed as weaker sex and today both the females and the Harijans are being humiliated in the society. It is learnt that a temple is got constructed at the site of 'sati' in Rajasthan and the money received as offerings in that temple is given away to the family of that female who has been burnt there. You may find out the facts in this regard. I feel that great injustice is being permeated in the name of religion. So all the structures which have been built up in the name of 'sati', should be demolished. Those persons who have ardent faith in the human values abhor such practices and only a few hypocrites in the society support them. But the masses in India look down at it with abhorrence. Today even after 40 years of independence, humanity is being struck at its root in the name of religion. I would request the hon. Minister that most stringent action should be taken in the cases of attack on humanity, atrocities on Harijans, and in the cases of widow and bride burnings which are being made in the name of casteism and religion so that such incidents may not be repeated in future. You have enacted a number of laws such as the Arms Act under which offenders can be given deterrent punishment but a lot of people are still in possession of unlicensed arms and unauthorised people have illegal possession on the land rendered surplus under the Land Ceiling Act and distributed among the landless poor and these poor people are annihilated by them. The Government have enacted a number of laws but these are hardly implemented. I hope that this Bill on Religious Institutions will be implemented in the letter and spirit and will satisfy the people and there will be no more killing of human beings in the name of religion.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I have no objection

to the Bill though I have got my reservations about a particular provision to which I will make a reference later on. But I feel that a wrong impression is sought to be given to the country through this Bill. An impression is sought to be given that this Bill makes an attempt to separate politics from religion or religion from politics. Nothing is further from the truth. This Bill does not make any attempt to separate politics from religion or religion from politics. The Bill primarily seeks to prevent misuse of religious institutions to which we have no objection. In fact, this question has agitated the minds of Members and of the Chair and observations have been made from time to time that we should enter into a serious discussion about segregating politics from religion or religion from politics. I do not know whether that separation is possible in a democratic country and particularly in a country like India. If we look at the other countries in the world, we find, whether we like it or not, religion has played an important role in the politics of the nation. Even in America, an advanced democratic country, whether a person comes from the Roman Catholic or Protestant, to a great extent, have an effect on the elections. Even in England, religion has its own impact. A country like India where religion dominates our life but more or less in every moment and when politics also has become a pastime of everyone, I do not know whether an effective separation between religion and politics is possible? But I am fully in agreement that use of religious sentiments in the determination of political ends should be minimised as far as possible and before any attempt is made to bring a law in that direction, it is necessary that we should have an all-round discussion because any hasty law may be counter-productive and may not result in fulfilling the objectives for which such an enactment may be made. This Act tries to prevent and punish harbouring of all persons accused or convicted of political offence or storing of arms.

I have no objection for the offences which have been enumerated in Clause 3, from (b) to (i), though I have got reservation about clause (a), where the Act also wants to touch any activity which is for the promotion or propagation of a political

activity. But we must remember that in this country, we are always tempted to bring a law; we are very capable of drafting incompetent laws, we draft a law, we pass a law and the law requires an amendment before it is implemented, and we are more competent in ignoring or in not at all taking action under the law. If we really want to prevent misuse of religion for political activities, what is required more than a law is the political will. Because if we are serious about the misuse of the religious institutions, even today under the existing law, we can do it. I do not mind this law being passed in order to show the urgency or to focus before the people the grave urgency of the situation arising out of the happenings in Punjab. But if this law remains only a law on paper, then no purpose will be served. We are all guilty, maybe some of us, who are very lucky, may not be, but we have always, almost all of us, at some point of time or the other, have used religious feelings for our political purposes. I have strong objections today that we call ourselves secular, but as Shri Shahabuddin, with whom I have great disagreement on many occasions, said even in official functions, religious ceremonies are performed on TV. It shows the Prime Minister going to a particular temple or *masjid*. I do not mind; I am not saying that the Prime Minister may not follow a particular religion; he may do, but that is a private matter. He may decide to pray in a *mandir* or may go and visit a mosque or a church, but that must be kept as a private activity and must not be shown to the people as a public activity. Why is it that this type of visits to *masjids* and *mandirs* are focussed on TV. This gives an impression that the State is not separating its activities from religion and unless we decide to separate the activities of the State from religion, such type of Act is not going to fulfil its objectives.

A reference has been made as to what was done in the last elections. I am not saying in order to score a debating point, but I believe great disservice was done to the Congress Party itself when Arun Govil was projected in Allahabad, or Dara Singh was projected, because they could touch and exploit the religious sentiments. I am not

[Shri Dinesh Goswami]

against an actor canvassing for a particular political party. I know in this House we have got actors and actresses, who are playing an important role. We have got Sunil Dutt, who had undertaken a peace march. I heartily welcome this act on his part. Shrimati Vyjayanthimala Bali is there. I had the privilege of sitting with Nargis Dutt in the other House. Prithvi Raj Kapoor was a Member. It is not that I am trying to prevent an actor to hold his political convictions, but if we try not to utilize his political convictions but try to exploit his image as a religious person or as *Ram* or *Hanuman* you cross the limit and there I believe, what is more required than the law is the political will.

In fact, some sort of a political code of conduct has become necessary today for all the political personalities. If we can arrive at such a political code of conduct that such religious feelings will never be exploited for purposes of political activity, that would be more effective. It is not only Gurudwaras—I hope Shri Banatwalla will not dispute me—but even masjids are also used for discussions on politics. We know, this is a practice in my own State also. Whenever we go for electioneering, we are taken to a prayer house and we are asked to pray. Somehow a code of conduct has become necessary so that this type of use of religious institution for the narrow political ends of electioneering and political purposes could be prevented.

And, therefore, to the extent of Clauses (b) to (i), which aim to prevent the offences, I have got no objection but I feel that clause (a) is very widely framed. I am in agreement with Mr. Banatwalla when he says that this clause has the possibility of being misused. This Act aims to prevent any premises being used for the promotional or propagation of a political activity and promotional or propagation of political activity means that it will include any meeting of a political nature.

No, in this country and for that matter anywhere, the borderline between social activity and political activity is very very thin.

For me something may be of a social nature but at the same time to an other person it may be of a political nature. Suppose the peoples' hardship because of price rise is discussed in a temple and a voice is raised that there is a lot of hardship, how do you improve the condition of these people? Now for some it may appear a social cause but this will also come under the definition of a political activity. Therefore, if we have the limited purpose of preventing only those offences which come under clauses (b) to (i) then I do not know why clause (a) has been brought into this Act. In fact, I would urge upon the Home Minister that by incorporating the clause (a) room for possibility of misuse has been kept without any purpose being served. So, I urge upon him to delete clause (a). If you are serious, for an honest effort to separate religion from politics. As I said, a total divorce is never possible—it has never been possible in any country—but an attempt must be made. Gandhiji was a very religious man. He followed certain religious principle. Nobody in this country can ever accuse him that he tried to exploit his religious or his religious feelings for political purposes. It depends upon the man; it depends upon ourselves. Unfortunately we have not been able to live up to the standard and the objectives which we proclaim. We issue homilies and the next moment we break them. Therefore, I feel that the purpose of this Act should be limited only from clause (b) to (i).

If the hon. Home Minister is serious enough to see that an honest effort must be made to separate religion and politics and that the religious institutions should not be used for political purposes and for electioneering, what I feel is that he should have a debate, not in this House, but in some committee where we can discuss about it and try to evolve a code of conduct which could be implemented. It has been pointed out that we have a number of laws and the existing laws can take care of the situation. But we have failed to do so not because we do not have laws but because we do not have the political will and determination to do so. We often thought that a particular activity may help at a point of time and thus decided to encourage it but later on

we found ourselves that a Frankenstein monster has been created which we are unable to control.

This Bill has been widely supported by all sections except perhaps a dissenting voice of one or two. I would, therefore, suggest that all of us should come together and try to evolve a code of conduct after careful deliberation and if we can translate this code of conduct into legislation—provided legislation can be made operative—I have no objection. But I will still urge that clause (a) should be deleted. I feel that if clause (a) is deleted then this Bill will get the unanimous approval of the House. There is a fear that there is the possibility of misuse of clause (a) and whatever objective the Government are trying to achieve by bringing this Bill can be achieved even if the Clause (a) is deleted. Therefore, my own view will be, let us for the time being delete clause (a) and pass the Act as it is and then address ourselves as to how we can come to the proper question of religion and politics and then to the extent possible try to evolve a code of conduct. Even I don't object if a law is made but I urge upon the Home Minister that clause (a) should be deleted as it has the possibility of being misused. Subject to this observation I support this Bill.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill—the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Bill, 1988—which will replace the ordinance promulgated some time back, i.e. on the 26th May 1988.

This Bill is a first step in separating religion from politics or *vice versa*, viz. politics from religion. It is not an end in itself. There was, as you know, a commitment given to the House earlier, about bringing in such a legislative measures in this House. This is thus the fulfilment of a commitment made earlier. It represents the sentiments expressed by members of the National Integration Council who had called from time to time for such a legislation.

Definitely, when we discuss this Bill, we have the background of what is happening

in Punjab. Actually, that background has expedited the promulgation of the ordinance. When the ordinance was promulgated, although it had been the object of some criticism here by some learned Members of the House from the other side, it was welcomed by different political parties—rightist and leftist, both. The Communist parties—CPI(M) and CPI—and BJP had welcomed this ordinance. But now when it has come to the House, there is some amount of criticism on some plea or the other—e.g. why did Government bring the ordinance, and why did they not have the Bill itself in the last Budget Session etc.

As you know, in the process of the Black Thunder operation, it was found that the gurudwaras, particularly the Golden Temple was harbouring hardened criminals. They had to be flushed out. In that background, we wholeheartedly welcome this Bill.

The learned Member who spoke prior to me, Mr. Goswami, had some reservations. He opposed the Bill; he not merely had reservations about Clause 3(a) of the Bill which says :

“for the promotion or propagation of any political activity ;...”

He pleads that it should be deleted. But why ? If you take out this Clause 3(a) from the Bill, will the purpose of the Bill be served ? He has referred to the difficulty in its implementation ; but the Government should take care to see that it is implemented properly. If Clause 3(a) is not there, naturally in the gurudwaras, political meetings can be held, and some decisions can be taken. Is that the purpose underlying this Bill ? The Bill provides that religious shrines should, for no reason at all, be used for political purpose. The funds of the religious institutions should not be used for political activity. Do you want that religious funds, funds meant for religious activities, should be diverted thus ?

And, as you know, politics is controversial. Is it not ? I wish Mr. Goswami was here. Politics is controversial. It is never unanimous. Then there are certain political parties which claim to represent the entire

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

sentiments of one community. More specifically, the Akali Dal they claim to represent the sentiments of the Sikhs and all those things. Then there is controversy. There are different political parties. Even the Akali Dal, they are divided, sub-divided. So, politics is controversial, and when politics is controversial, no political party is above controversy. If you allow some political party to sit in some religious institution, in their premises, to decide, to deliberate, will it remain pious? But I strongly plead that everything under Section 3(a) to (i) should remain as it is. Funds should not be diverted. After the Bill is passed it should be the sincere endeavour, the responsibility of all the managements of such institutions to maintain the sanctity of the places and the sanctity that is intended to be maintained by this law. Because the sanctity was not maintained, because the religious institutions were used in such a way, they have lost their sanctity. That is why there was concern everywhere, throughout the country and the necessity for this Bill was felt. And hence this Bill which is before the House, after the Ordinance was issued. Therefore, there should not be any reservation.

There is some opposition, some resistance from some sides. Who are those people, who are those groups or parties? They definitely believe in communalism, and who want to benefit out of that? Otherwise, nobody else, no group, political parties, individuals will oppose this Bill. There is no scope for that. I very emphatically say this. There should not be any misgivings. The Act will not apply particularly to one community or to one type of shrine. It will apply in equal measures to Gurudwaras, Mosques, Temples and Churches. Gurudwaras in Punjab, as you know, have been misused by terrorists. But there have been instances also in the past when religious places of other communities in the rest of the country have been misused, are being misused during communal violence. Should we allow lethal arms and ammunition to be stored in religious places?

There is a reference to Gandhiji. Gan-

dhiji's words, his very famous words, that he believes in religion, he was deeply religious and he could not conceive politics without religion. True. But what sort of politics, was he thinking, was he referring to? As you know, in one sentence, I will say and conclude :

"Ishwar Allaha tere naam sab ko
 Sammati de Bhagwan"

Gandhiji used to believe in this. He used to see all in one person. Ishwar, Allah, Jesus Christ, Mohammad—all in one person. How many of us are taking the name of religion and Gandhiji now, while participating in this debate believe in this? Are we not dividing the people and are we not using religion, for non-religious purposes to create disharmony, to spread violence, to spread bitterness instead of spreading this message of friendship, the message of brotherhood? And, as you know, universal brotherhood that is the spirit of Indian culture "Vasudhev Kutumbkam" that is the essence of Indian culture. Are we aware of that? Only for our narrow political purposes we are using religion and we are also taking Gandhiji's name. It is unfortunate that we do not understand Gandhiji. We do not understand his statement that he cannot separate politics from religion, in the right perspective and we go and give such references.

With these words, I give my support to this Bill.

Sir, this is a commendable step, but a beginning only. A comprehensible Bill should be brought forward. As I said, it is not an end itself and so many things are required to be done in really effecting separation of religion from politics.

Sir, the office-bearers of different religious institutions and organisations should be debarred from contesting election either by law or the political parties should agree to a code of conduct. Such restrictions should be there. Otherwise, religion will indirectly come to have its play in politics and spoil the atmosphere in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI (Kanpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill presented by the hon. Home Minister. My submission is that it is appropriate when we say that in India, all the political activities will be secular but some people use this term in such a way that it reflects that India is a religionless State. I feel that it is not even possible to think of India without religion. It is not at all possible because such are the high ideals of religion established by the builders of modern India. Mahakavi Tulsidas also has defined religion in the following words in the Ram-charitmanas :

Parhit saris dharam nahin bhai
 Par peera sam nahin adhmai.

It means that there is no sin like torturing others and there is no virtue like showering of pleasures on the fellow beings. Similarly, the Tenth guru of Sikhs has said :

Deh shiva var mohe yhen.
 Shubh karman se kabhun na tarun.

that is, such a blessing has been sought from God by virtue of which I may not deviate from the path of good deeds. Such was the religion envisaged by Guru Gobind Singh. Similarly, Iqbal also had recited the following wonderful lines :

Mazhab nahin sikhata apas mein
 vair rakhaa

Hindi mein ham vatan hai,
 hindostan hamara

Thus there is not a single person who has said anything against it. Some of my friends have also quoted Mahatma Gandhi. Even Maulana Azad who used to go for Namaaz five times a day and was a highly religious person, always supported it. Our martyrs also happily went to gallows with a book of Gita, Quran, Bible with them. Therefore, an India without religion is not going to be discussed in this Bill. This Bill, which has been presented by the Home Minister, Government of India clearly mentions it that it is being brought to stop the misuse of

religious places, and this is very appropriate.

The religious places can not be given the licence to disturb the mutual harmony, endanger the future of the nation and its unity and integrity by allowing the murderers to take shelter in the gurudwaras, and bury there the dead bodies of the assassinated people, or the stockpiling of arms and ammunitions in the mosques or else by providing shelter to the anti-social elements in the temples. This is precisely what has been mentioned in this Bill of Government of India.

The separation of religion and politics is one such question because India is a multi-religious country. It is not a country of any particular religion but the people following different religions, cultures and speaking different languages live here. If unity is to be maintained amidst all these things, then we shall have to stop such things and the Government of India has taken an appropriate step in this direction. I feel that the people who oppose it, do so because their communal feelings get a setback due to this bill. This is not right. We have to keep our nation united and in order to maintain the mutual harmony amidst all the religions, we will have to follow a particular code of conduct.

If the followers of a particular religion misuse their religion, it will incite the people of other religions to follow suit. I agree that religion has never been misused in this way in our country so far. Some Members of the Opposition have drawn the attention of the House to certain points. I admit that if we have done a mistake, we will try to rectify it. We do not like to act against the teachings of our leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and others. The previous speaker said it just now in his speech that we will have to separate religion from politics in this manner and this can be done by stopping the misuse of religious places as well as by changing our apparent behaviour. It is not a hidden secret that there are such people in different political parties who create communal frenzy. They may say anything in their official capacity in the name of politics but the truth is that

[Shri Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi]

they create separatist tendencies by infusing discontentment among the masses. Such tendencies will have to be stopped. How can unity be maintained in the country unless we have mutual harmony in every field, be it elections in the field of politics or other festivals etc. In a meeting convened by Shri Buta Singh, I had requested him to get all such parties which smack of communalism declared disqualified by the Election Commission. They should not be allowed to contest elections because if that is done, it will vitiate the atmosphere. There is nothing wrong with the religion. It is communalism which creates disharmony. Communalism and religion are not one and the same thing. Many people have a wrong impression that religion is another name for communalism whereas communalism is that which has certain symbols for which the people are prepared to struggle and sacrifice their lives. On the contrary, religion is a code of conduct which elevates us and constantly promotes our spiritual life and noble ideals. In Hinduism, there is a saying "Dharayati—dharma", that is, whatever we practise is religion. What is to be practised? The highest norms of civilization are to be assimilated. A man may take birth in a high family but he becomes educated and civilised only when he attains spiritual and moral sublimation. My submission is that people should cast aside their communal feelings and narrow mindedness and march forward on the path of religion. With these words, I support the Bill.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar): I welcome the very spirit of the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Bill and the philosophy behind it.

It is our long standing demand that religion should be separated from politics. Politics should not enter into the arena of religious institutions. Religion is a very personal affair. One may be a Hindu, a Christian, a Muslim, a Sikh. Whether one goes to a mosque, a temple, a church, a gurudwara, but that should not be mixed up

with politics. But at the present moment, it is clear that in the name of religion, religious fundamentalists and communalists are raising their ugly heads in order to destroy not only our national unity but the entire mankind also. So, I support this Bill.

I think, merely bringing and passing of this Bill is not enough. We should start immediately a nation-wide mass campaign against religious fundamentalists and communalists. Otherwise, the purpose of this Bill will not be achieved.

14.00 hrs.

Before I go to the Bill, I would like to ask one question from the hon. Minister that why he was in so much hurry to issue this Ordinance. Can he tell us how many cases have been initiated from the date of the issue of the Ordinance up-till now? Secondly, why did he not consult the Opposition Members before bringing this Bill to the House? Previously they have been consulting the Opposition—at the time of Anti-Defection Bill they had consulted the Opposition, at the time of Sati Bill they had consulted the Opposition. Then why did they not consult the Opposition Members this time?

I do not agree with Shri Banatwalla and Shri Shahabuddin that this Bill has been drafted in such a manner that it will encroach upon our right to religious freedom enshrined under article 25 (2) of the Constitution, but I do agree with them that the term 'political activity' mentioned in clause 3 (a) is very vague and full of ambiguity. I think whosoever has drafted this Bill, whether Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev or Shri Buta Singh, he has not taken note of the earlier judgements.

14.02 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

One such judgement was passed by the Bombay High Court in 1940. This was mentioned by Shri Banatwalla also. Vithal-bhai Patel made a will giving a residuary bequest to Subhas Chandra Bose to be spent on the "political uplift of India". The

Bombay High Court ruled that the bequest was void. Another case was decided by the Supreme Court in 1962. That case was concerning Lokmanya Tilak's will executed in 1918. He had set up a trust for two newspapers, *The Kesari* and *The Mahratta*... This trust was liable to be registered under the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950. It was said in the will that it was for 'political awareness'. Whether it is for the 'political uplift' of India or whether it is for 'political awareness', both have been declared void by the Courts. So, I think they should have devoted more time to the definition of the expression 'political activity'.

Under Clause 3 of the Bill, there should have been another sub-clause. I congratulate the Minister that he has come out with such a Bill which seeks to stop the inflow of arms and ammunitions into the temples or mosques or gurudwaras or churches. But why did he not make provision so that the inflow of foreign money into the religious institutions could also be stopped. There is no such provision in this Bill. The foreign money that comes to the religious institutions in the country is roughly Rs. 200 crores. From Sweden we are getting not only Bofors guns but along with the guns, they are giving money also to our religious institutions. Sweden, USA, France, Switzerland, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, all these countries are sending money to our religious institutions and this amounts to roughly Rs. 200 crores.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Manjeri) : Israel also.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Yes, Israel also is sending money, Italy also is sending money. Let the Minister make note of it.

Sir, we are talking of delinking the religion from politics. But really speaking, Mr. Chairman, it is very very difficult to delink the religion from politics. It is a very tough job. But if we all unite and put concerted effort, we will be able to delink religion from politics. Religion is very much with our politics and culture. The religious sentiments we express in our day-to-day life must be avoided. But Sir, when

we are taking oath here, you are taking oath in the name of God, in the name of 'Allah' or in the name of 'Bhagwan' and so on. I would plead with the Government that this kind of oath-taking should be avoided. Now, I would give an example how you bring in religion into politics. Sir, what they did in Allahabad in the recent bye-election ? Shri Arun Govil who played 'Ram' part in 'Ramayana' TV serial, was invited to the public meeting of the party to rouse the Hindu fanaticism.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : What about your new 'Guru', national 'Guru' ?

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : I do not know whom you are referring to. Under the religious fanaticism, the history of our country is going to be distorted. It breeds abject superstitious faith in divine miracle and cannot do anything in solving personal problems. It distorts the history in a poisonous manner which hits Hindus, Muslim, Sikh and Christian and followers of all religion against one another instead of uniting them. The issue of 'Babri Masjid' and 'Ram Janam Bhoomi' has been there for a long time. Why are you not trying to solve this problem ? It disrupts the class solidarity of the toiling masses, the working class people.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : Can you explain what is fundamentalism and what is fanaticism ? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him explain in his own way.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Sir, if you go back to Gujarat riot, we find how Textile barons worked behind. It disrupts democratic patriotic national unity and hence the very basis of the national integration is put in jeopardy. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may ignore the interruptions. Please continue. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : So, Sir, in the end I would like to say that let us all come forward and do mass campaign against religious fundamentalism.. I support the Bill.

[Translation]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill presented by the hon. Minister in the House is commendable. Although the hon. Members have expressed their views on this Bill, yet no one can deny that religion and politics have their own significance. As regards religion, I can say it with full confidence that if there was no religion on this earth, then perhaps man would have become beast. It has been said :

‘Ahar nidra bhay mathunanch
Samanyametat pashubhirnaranam,

Dharmo hi teshamadhiko vishesho
Dharmoviheena pashubhi samana.’

Only religion can tell us what is right and what is wrong. It is not even possible to become a person of high moral without religion. No religion of any community has ever supported oppression, dishonesty, criminal activities or the crimes like rape which are still a slur on the name of society.

Sir, the scholars have expressed their views on religion. There is a sloka in Sanskrit in this regard—

Matratvat pardareshu, par draveshu
loshnavat

Atamvat sarva bhuteshu yah
pashyati sah panditah.

The religious leaders have said that only that person who considers other beings like his own self is the true man, a learned person or a Gyani in the real sense of the term.

But an unfortunate chapter was opened when religion was compounded with politics. Politics and religion are two separate things. Whenever politics is associated with religion, religion will certainly degenerate and politics

too will slide down its path. That is why the Government has felt it after 40 years of independence, and the society too had to think that when religion is being misused by the religious leaders, pandits, maulvis and scholars who call themselves the custodians of religion, these things will not be conducive for the development of society and will continue to be a constant threat to law and order. I would appreciate the hon. Minister for presenting this Bill.

Sir, just now, Shri Amar Roypradhan of the Forward Block, who is not present at the moment in the House, said that there should be a ban on the foreign assistance for the development or managing the affairs of the religious institutions. Sir, I would like to quote an Urdu couplet on religion :

“Mazhab nahin sikhata apas mein
vair rakhna,

Hindi hein hum, vatan hai
hindostan hamara.”

Why has there been a schism in what the religious preceptors have said regarding national unity, integrity and feelings of brotherhood. It was because politics has been mixed with religion. It is because religion which builds up the inner qualities of man is mixed with politics negating the very purpose of religion. That is why it became necessary for the Government to frame this law. Sir, in this bill religious institution has been defined as “any place or premises used as a place of public religious worship, by whatever name or designation known”. But the words ‘public religious worship’ are such that it can be used by religious preceptors, institutions, and persons connected with religion for getting the benefit of doubt and bring politics into it. For example, if a person constructs a temple, mosque, church or a gurudwara on his private land and if political activity goes on inside that place, he will perhaps, not be covered under the provisions of this law. Therefore, attention has to be paid to it because this will not come within the purview of the definition of place of public worship. Religious institutions can be established even within the premises of a private house and if political activity takes

place there, it will not come within the purview of this bill. Hence, it is essential to make the definition more comprehensive. If political activity goes on in a religious place established inside someone's privately owned house that should also be punishable. Therefore, I want to request that the scope left in this bill to escape the clutches of law by taking the advantage of the benefit of doubt should be rectified and the bill should be made so comprehensive as to include everyone under its purview.

Sir, similarly, in clause 6 of this Bill, such provisions should be incorporated by which persons connected with religious institutions are not permitted to allow the setting up of any office of any other organisation or people within the premises of that institution.

As our hon. Member Shri Ramoowalia is present here, I want to submit that if the officials of a religious place wants to open its office within the premises of that institution, and discourses are delivered then there cannot be any objection. But if it is converted into a Damdami Taksal, then that will not do. Hence, this sub-clause has to be made more comprehensive and provisions for strict laws have to be made to ensure that apart from the office of the religious institutions itself, no other organisation can establish its office there.

Similarly, in sub-clause (b) of clause 4 of this Bill, it has been provided that nothing in this section shall apply to "any arms which are used as part of any religious ceremony or ritual of the institution as established by custom or usage." But it can be interpreted differently. One person can interpret it according to his religious customs and another can do it according to another custom and the two interpretations may be contradictory which may result in a communal flare-up and create tension and can cause danger to life and property of the people.

I regret to submit that one of our colleagues staged a walk-out yesterday in opposition to this Bill. I could not understand it. In this bill the intention of Government is

clear and it is to separate religion from politics. Restrictions are not being imposed on any religion or in following its customs. But if religious institutions which are established to humanise people and to reform society and build up an atmosphere of amity and brotherhood, are occupied by killers, gunda elements, hooligans, criminals and other undesirable and anti-social elements and make them into places of shelter and centre of their activities, I think no citizen of this country will be able to tolerate such a situation.

I want to humbly submit that if these institutions are utilised for political purposes and for narrow political ends and for grabbing power, then peace cannot prevail in society, law and order will be disturbed and the country will disintegrate.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are other shortcomings also in this Bill. I have drawn your attention to only two or three points. I want to submit that it should be studied carefully and a more comprehensive Bill should be brought so that there is no possibility left of its misuse. With these words, I support this bill.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Salem-pur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. I heartily support it. This Bill should have been introduced much earlier.

India is the only country where people belonging to all religions of the world viz. Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Christian, Parsi, Jain etc. etc. co-exist. Our country has been declared as a 'Secular State' in our Constitution. You will not find another country like ours in the whole world, where people enjoy full freedom to follow any religion and practise it in whatever way they like.

I want to draw your attention to our neighbours—Pakistan and Bangladesh which were once parts of India. But none of these countries have adopted secularism. They are Islamic States. There are temples in those States also but is it not a fact that the equality of opportunity which the minorities are enjoying in our country does not exist in

[Shri Ram Nagina Mishra]

these adjoining States ? This is because of our Governments policy and we should thank it umpteen times for it.

So far as the misuse of religious institutions is concerned, two points have come to light. It is the opinion of some of our colleagues that religion has been mixed with politics. I have a difference of opinion in this regard. I think that every religion aims at the welfare of the whole mankind and is against causing injury to anyone. Religion does not create problems for anybody, rather it teaches human values. Religion even guides Government and teaches several good things. As Goswami Tulsidas has said and I quote,

“Jasu raj priya praja dukhari,
So narip avashya narak adhikari.”

Religion directs the ruler to govern in a way which would make the people happy. I mean that religion is not to be blamed. It is only the politicians who make use of religion but religion never takes recourse to it.

When partition took place, Muslim League was a political party of the Muslims. It had demanded a separate State. Unfortunately its demand was accepted. A party with this name is still existing in India. What I have said may have hurt some people and I want to apologise for it. This party has also been recognised. Yet you plead that it is a secular party. You should say that it will not effect others. This is improbable.

Today arms are being stock-piled in the Gurudwaras and terrorists are in control of them. Sikh religion has never preached oppression of humanity. It rather preaches brotherhood and sharing of other people's grief. The terrorists who are killing the innocent people are not real Sikhs. The anti-social elements have their own community. The followers of the religion have nothing to do with them. The terrorists have consolidated their hold to such an extent in the religious institutions that they sit inside and use fire-arms. You should make arrangements to prevent people from taking shelter

there. I mean that this bill should have been introduced much earlier. Still, I thank the hon. Minister for having brought forward this bill and I whole heartedly support it.

I want to draw the attention of the Government in this direction also that Maulana Bukhari issues '*fatwas*' or decrees from the Jama Masjid. Why the Government remains so silent in this matter. The Maulana while on his visit to Kashmir declared that the people of Kashmir have the right to decide their fate. It is upto them whether to opt for Pakistan or to stay on in India. Why is the Government silent on this matter ? You say that religion should not be brought into politics. But there is inconsistency between your action and words. I want to know from the Government as to why it is silent on this matter ? As you have put restrictions in the Gurudwaras, why don't you do the same in respect of Jama Masjid as well ?

We remember the day when a huge crowd had swelled up at the call given by Maulana Bukhari. He had challenged all the highly placed people and made several provocative speeches. But even then, Government remained silent. You impose restrictions on one and give freedom to the other. Now Maulana has given a call to the people to march to Ayodhya and offer prayers inside the Ramjanam Bhumi. Will it not raise religious disputes ? The situation has arisen out of a verdict of the court. You get the matter decided by court or hold negotiations in this regard. The Hindus and Muslims are brothers and the matter should be sorted out across the table. I thank those Muslims who are called Auliyas or Pirs and who have issued a decree that holding such a march would be against the Shariat and Islam.

You say that they are not the leaders. Then who are the leaders ? Those who are engaged in active politics. If you go through history, you will find that Babri-Masjid—Ram Janam Bhumi temple dispute has not been created by any true leader of the Muslims. The politicians are behind it and those who are after votes are struggling for it. The religious Mollahs and Maulvis are not a party to it.

I want to demand from the Government to pay attention here as well. If attention is not paid here then what will happen ? If restrictions are not put on religion based parties like Akali Dal, Muslim League etc., then why impose restrictions on the religious institutions. You should make an amendment in the law so that the religious parties are barred from contesting the elections... *(Interruptions)*

If this is the observation of the Government then it will not be able to check fanaticism by mere statutes. I would request that Government should implement its policy of secularism in letter and spirit and any political party which is based on religion should not be permitted to contest the elections. If this step is taken, fanaticism will be rooted out for ever. I thank the hon. Minister umpteen times for moving such a bill which will at least benefit Punjab and curb terrorism. Attention should be paid to my suggestions as well. With these words, I support the bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. S. Jagathrakshakan.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Sir, I have also given my name. I also want to express my views on this subject. I request you to give me a few minutes to speak. Politics is being mixed up with religion. We also need an opportunity to express our views.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not called his name.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Can't you permit me, Sir ? Am I not a Member of this House ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will see.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will you consider my request ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will see. I don't commit myself.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : But there must be some commitment on behalf of the Chair. You must commit yourself. I am also a Member of this House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rai, you must come through your party.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : I have given it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is all. Let the slip come from the Whip. I will take your name.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : It is your sole discretion. Your hands are not fettered. It is not the sole discretion of the Party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have heard you.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : But you have not give your verdict and judgment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I told you that your name must come through your Party Whip.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Sir, I am on a point of order.

[Translation]

Please let me express the feelings prevailing in my constituency. Sir, you are empowered to call anyone if the situation so demands.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will see. I have heard you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : If the name does not come through the Party Whip, does it mean that you cannot allow me ? You can

[Shri Raj Kumar Rai]

call a person if you feel that he needs a chance to convey the feelings of his constituents. I want your ruling in this matter. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record hereinafter.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rai, please don't disturb the proceedings.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is enough. Dr. Jagathrakshakan, please continue.

[Translation]

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH WALIA (Patiala) : The quorum is in the Central Hall. The House should continue its proceedings only if there is a quorum. Quorum is a must.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Please ring the bell for quorum.

Now there is quorum. Dr. Jagathrakshakan.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Mr. Chairman Sir, please allow me two minutes time to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly sit down. I have called Dr. Jagathrakshakan.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Mr. Chairman Sir, please give me an opportunity to

speak. The House will be benefited if I am allowed to convey the feelings prevailing in my constituency.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will see. I do not commit myself.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Sir, I think, you will consider.

[Translation]

*DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN (Chinglepet) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my views on the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Bill, 1988.

We are justified in taking pride in the fact that India is a secular country. But I feel this this measure, which seeks to ensure secularism in this country, is a belated measure. This must have been brought some 10 years before. Had this measure been brought before this House some 10 years before, I am sure we could have avoided many communal riots from occurring and thus prevented the loss of hundreds of innocent lives in this country. We could have particularly prevented the loss of unarmed lives in Punjab and could have saved thousands of our invaluable soldiers. We could have also averted military operations like Operation Bluestar and Operation Thunderbolt in the Golden Temple. To go a step further and say, we could have saved the precious life of our Late Prime Minister Madame Gandhi. This is, therefore, a delayed measure.

The Enlightened Anna rightly said : I do not oppose the existence of temples. I humbly desire that these should not become the havens of unrighteous people.

*SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : That was said by Dr. Kalaigarn Karunanidhi.

*DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN : These words are still ringing in our minds. The people of Tamil Nadu do not have

*Not recorded.

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

divisions on the basis of caste or religion. In Tamil Nadu all religions are equal. Only in Tamil Nadu, the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi, Periyar and Anna have come true. We are proud of it. Our ancient Tamil Poet Thirumular gave the unique teaching 'One God, One Society' to the people of Tamil Nadu, why, to the whole world. Such teachings are not there even in the Sanskrit language. Hon. Dr. Siddhu, who hails from Delhi praised Tamil Nadu as the only State in India which is free from communal tensions.

This was all due to the long-standing efforts of the Dravidian Movement. It was the Dravidian Movement that preached equality of man and created the awareness in the minds of Tamil people that all religions are equal. It was the Dravidian Movement which ensured an egalitarian society for the Tamils. The Movement shines still as a model Movement for all the peoples of India.

I would like to charge the Government for bringing this Bill with a purpose to muzzle the voice of the opposition. This is a black law. On the one hand, you propose this law. On the other hand, you using Ramayana TV stars like Arun Govil and Dara Singh for election campaigns. You incite the communal passions of the people and instigate them to take to riots. But still bring before this House this type of Bill. You are therefore absolutely going to misuse the Bill. There is no guarantee in the Bill that it would not be misused. You must, therefore, first frame guidelines for application of this law and thereafter seek our approval.

This Government is an adept in enacting laws. Again, this Government is an adept in misusing the provisions of the laws of this country and its Constitution. You are ever-ready to topple a State Government by misusing the Constitutional provision. More than 75 times this Government has toppled the State Governments so far misusing article 356, against all democratic norms.

You are so sacrosanct about preventing

the misuse of religious places. But your actions do not stand proof of it. The hon. Minister is sitting before me. Hon. Minister Shri P. Chidambaram is laughing at us. They have postponed the elections in Tamil Nadu on the ostensible plea of Vanniya problem. The Government which is bringing this Bill is seeking postponement of elections on this communal ground when the State is otherwise free from any communal tension. I also belong to Vanniya community. There is no such Vanniya problem in the State. But this so called noble Government is arousing the communal passions in the State. This Government is unfit to rule this country, they are no more in a position to lead this country and they are seeking the postponement on some lame excuse. The people of Tamil Nadu, why, the whole of India laugh at you for inventing this non-existent communal reason for postponing elections in Tamil Nadu.

Communal riots continue to rage in other parts of the country. The Government is sitting pretty quiet. The dreams of Mahatma Gandhi lie shattered. The Government is misusing the Government machinery and the provisions of the Constitution for strengthening the party, for preparing for elections and for taming Opposition parties. Government machinery and the Constitution are not being used in the service of the people.

The Punjab problem could have been solved years before. So far how many lives have been lost in that State? So far how many laws have been brought to prevent the loss of life in that State? Numberless. Were you able to ensure peace and order in that State after so many years of your so called efforts? No. You can bring hundreds of laws like this but you cannot bring peace and order to that State because you lack political will. Your purpose of enacting such laws is to shut the mouths of Opposition from criticizing the Government. By this, you are not doing any service to the nation and the people.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): He did not say whether he is supporting it or opposing it. He says: "ten years ago, I would have supported it." But he doesn't say whether he is supporting it or opposing it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Mr. Chairman Sir, you had assured me that you would listen to me.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: After the names in the list are over and if the time permits, I will consider your name.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Sir, the discussion may be over, not the time.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't disturb the proceedings, please resume your seat...(Interruptions)...Please resume your seat, otherwise I will have to ask you to withdraw from the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I shall suggest Shri Raj Kumar Rai to first resign from the Congress (1) and then ask permission to speak. I am sure he shall not find any difficulty in it. (Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman Sir, I whole-heartedly support this Bill introduced by the hon. Minister. Although a Bill as important as this should have been introduced much

earlier, but better Late than never. I congratulate the hon. Minister for having introduced this Bill.

The hon. Member of AIADMK who spoke earlier to me called this a 'Black Bill'. It is difficult to understand how this is a 'Black Bill'. The objective of this Bill is to break the nexus between religion and politics, to ensure that religion is not made a means to gain political ends. But this fact was not touched upon by the hon. Member in his speech. He limited himself to speculating on the reasons behind postponement of elections and to such other related topics. I believe that this Bill has been introduced because the country urgently needs it. I am of the view that: "Jat par na paat par, desh chalega ekta par". Hence the necessity of introducing this Bill.

Mr. Chairman Sir, many Bills are introduced and passed here but they should also be effectively implemented. A clause in this Bill provides:

[English]

Prohibition of religious forum for propagating political ideas. With regard to penalty it is mentioned that:

"Where any religious institution or manager thereof contravenes the provisions of section 3, section 4, section 5 or section 6, the manager and every person connected with such contravention shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees".

[Translation]

This implies that a manager is liable to punishment if he uses a religious institution for political purposes. We know that a number of laws are framed in our country. But the kind of judgements that are given undermine the very importance of these laws. It is said that—Good money, Good Barrister, Good Money, Good Law. In this country, money can buy justice, can buy an acquittal. So I suggest that a special court

be set up for this purpose so that the guilty are punished at the earliest.

The Government can punish managers for misuse of religious institutions but what of prominent leaders who do the same? Our country has produced great men like the Buddha, Hazarat Mohd. was also born here, Guru Gobind Singh, Guru Tegh Bahadur, Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore and Imam Bukhari of Jama Masjid. Leaders of our country use the religious forums to propagate their views. There are leaders who do not hesitate to speak from the mosque for the election campaigns. The Babri Masjid controversy is the creation of such leaders. We deeply respect the Imam of Jama Masjid. But what is the Government's reaction to an Imam who exploits his office for political purposes and organises public meetings to criticize the Government?

May I know the reaction of the Government to the anti-national statements of Imam Bukhari? What steps the Government has taken in this regard? When the Government is ineffective in dealing with the Imam of such a prominent mosque how can the Imams of minor mosques be controlled? Minor functionaries of a religious community are bound to be swayed away by the actions of their high-profile leaders. Parties like the R.S.S. and Shiv Sena fight electoral battles using religion as a weapon. The Government's political intentions should be clear while dealing with such situations. Hon. Shri Dinesh Goswami said that a Prime Minister cannot frequent religious institutions. India is a secular country. Our Prime Minister is free to visit any temple, mosque, gurudwara or church. Hon. Shri Dinesh Goswami further said that the Congress (I) used Shri Arun Govil in the Allahabad by-election. My answer to that is the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri N.T. Rama Rao is projecting himself as Lord Rama to gain political mileage. The Government should disqualify a political leader who uses religion as a tool to contest elections. Politicians should be restrained from misusing religion. Nothing much can be achieved by punishing the managers of temples, mosques or gurudwaras. Political leaders should also be sincere. Hon. Shri

Shahabuddin gave an interesting speech. His speeches are quite interesting but are full of communal overtones. There are some parties which do not even hoist the national flag on Independence day. Such parties should be identified. A party indulging in anti-national politics should first keep in mind the independent status of the country. A solution should be found to the Ram Janmabhoomi—Babri Masjid problem as soon as possible.

Dinesh Goswami has mentioned the name of Shri Arun Govil. I want to know how the Babri Masjid Committee supported the Janmorcha candidate directly. What is this? I would like to stress that religion should have no connection with politics. Those leaders who believe in their mixing, should be disqualified from contesting elections. If you make this Bill comprehensive, it will be implemented soon. Big people fight elections in the name of religion and utilise every situation in the name of religion. A comprehensive Bill should be brought forward to disqualify them. Then only it will be implemented, otherwise not. This Bill is essential for the unity and integrity of the country. We know it is a fact that in various small gurudwaras in Punjab Khalistan Movement is being launched in the name of religion. The Government should have found out from where they get the money for purchasing arms and carrying on political propaganda. We should find out the source from where this money comes. Does it come from outside or from inside the country. Today we find that this money is being utilised for purchasing arms for temples, mosques and gurudwaras. If you pay attention to all these things, then this Bill will be implemented, otherwise not.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM (Gaya) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill wholeheartedly which has been brought forward about religious institutions. This Bill should have been enacted earlier because politics based on religion is posing a great obstruction in the maintenance of the integrity of the country. It has been envisaged in our Constitution that we will not allow any religion to play any role in politics but

[Shri Ramswaroop Ram]

today I find that the people are posing a danger to the integrity and unity of the country in the name of religion which is wrong. I do not oppose any religion. Religion has its own importance and it should not be mixed with politics. All religions preach to love other religions. We are religious only outwardly because if we go into depth, we find what we are doing to break the social fabric.

We put on a different mask but indulge in certain acts in the name of religion and politics just to harm the national integrity saying that it is our religion congregation. Iqbal said, no religion teaches mutual enmity. I want to ask Seth Sahab to remember Iqbal Sahab who said "Mazhab Nahin Sikhata aapas Men Bair Rakhna". We believe it in principle but we forget it as soon as we reach home...

(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIMAN : All this will not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Iqbal had told the citizens of the country that religion does not teach mutual enmity. I was talking about the principle. I do not know why you are raising an objection to it. I want to say that religion is a personal property, no matter, whether it is a Sikh, Hindu, Muslim or Christian religion, its demonstration should not be permitted at public places. You must have seen that Shahabuddin Sabab had assembled people at the Boat Club after taking out a procession in the name of Babri Masjid. I want to ask the Government through you whether the Boat Club lawns are meant for taking out political processions or holding meetings, where you can collect Muslims. It is my request that holding of religious demonstrations at places like Boat Club, Ramliila

grounds etc. should be permanently banned.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Manjeri) : There is religious independence in this country...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Freedom does not mean that conspiracies should be hatched in the name of religion. Freedom does not mean that we should break our own social fabric. Freedom does not mean that we should endanger the unity and integrity of our country...(Interruptions) Freedom does not mean that fanatic Hindu organisations like Shiva Sena should be raised in this country. I condemn the Shiva Sena. I condemn the Akali Dal people. I condemn the Muslim League people. The people who wants to break the integrity and unity of the country in the name of religion, are traitors and none else no matter to which community they belong...(Interruptions). The population of the community of Harijans and Adivasis to which I represent, is about 25 crores in this country. They have nothing to do with any religion but their entry into the Nathdwara temple is banned, they are not permitted to enter any temple.

SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI (Bhatinda) : The hon. Member has just talked about Akalis, I want to tell them that Akalis have neither talked about breaking of nor broken the country. On the contrary, they made 90 per cent sacrifices to build the country. Out of the 100 people who laid down their lives throughout the country, 90 were Akalis. Sikhs are true patriots...(Interruptions)...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : The hon. Member has just talked about Akalis breaking the country, we will not let it go on record.

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH ATHWAL : In the name of religion...(Interruptions)...you

have brought down the Punjab Government and you are trying to break Punjab by sending Sushil Muni there...(Interruptions)...

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : You do not have full information. You may kindly change some of your words, rest is all right...(Interruptions)...

[English]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : These objectionable words need to be expunged from the record...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions please. You will get your turn to speak. You may clarify and say whatever you want to say.

[Translation]

SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI : Akalis have never attempted to break the country but Akalis have made sacrifices to safeguard the integrity of the country. (Interruptions)...

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : This country is not the monopoly of any one. Everybody loves the country. Nobody wants to break the country. Therefore, wrong things should not be said in the House. Nobody will tolerate the wrong allegations. (Interruptions)...

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say that the country will not tolerate it, if the Akali Dal, the Muslim league or any other organisation wants to indulge in politics in the name of religion.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : Who wants to indulge in...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : If you keep religion away from politics and talk about pure politics, then the people of India will be ready to own you. But the day you start indulging in politics in the name of religion or language, the people of India from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and Bengal to Punjab will not tolerate it...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up. Your time is over.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Sir, I am not being allowed to speak. I have not been able to have my say, so please grant me some more time, I was saying that the population of Harijan community to which I represent, is about 25 crore in this country.

15.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, today, the doors of temples are closed for up at one place or the other. At times the Shankaracharya of Puri says that untouchability should be practised in the country while somewhere the Chief Mahant of the Nathdwara Temple proclaims that the doors of the temple are closed for us. I am not a religious man. My religion is the Constitution and not the Geeta, the Ramayana, the Kuran, the Guru Granth Sahib or the Bible. I am talking about myself, I am talking about the Harijans of India whose entry into the Devi's temple in villages is still banned. Today all these things are being done in the name of religion. I have, therefore, developed hatred for the religion. The very name of religion pricks me so much that I cannot describe it here. I feel that it is the religion which creates divisions between Hindus and Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs and Muslims and Christians. We are not in need of such a religion. Let such a religion remain locked in temples, Churches and Gurdwaras. Otherwise this country will break in the name of the religion and the unity of India will end. If the unity of the country is not safeguarded, we will lose our independence and become slaves. Our ancestors struggled for centuries to gain independence.

With these words, I support the Bill whole-heartedly and want to tell my Sikh brethren, Muslims brethren and other brethren that they should do away with such a politics which they have been practising by mixing religion with politics. Otherwise the country will break. Therefore, the country be saved.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : Mr. Chairman. Sir, the people belonging to different parties have expressed their views on the Bill which has been brought forward in this House. I have observed one thing and it is regrettable that while expressing their views on the Bill, the hon. Members have neither been able to understand the importance of the Bill nor they have realised the consequences of the words, the wrong words they have uttered in the House. They have not given any thought to these words and Gurudwaras have been mentioned in this connection again and again. It is regrettable that Gurudwaras are being misunderstood. There are about 50 thousand Gurudwaras in the country and out of these, only 10 or 20 have been misused. I do not talk of temples, mosques or churches, I want to say about gurudwaras only. There was and is the tradition of *Lunger* in the Gurudwaras. There is a tradition of providing free accommodation in Gurudwaras for 15 or 20 days. So in the tradition of Gurudwaras, institutions are being run in Delhi alone, where 80 thousand to 1 lakh students are receiving education. Employment opportunities are there. There is a tradition in Gurudwaras at Patna Saheb, Hazoor Saheb, Delhi, Amritsar, etc. that if somebody having faith in any religion comes and says that his pocket has been picked and he has no money to go home, he is given a sum of Rs. Rs. 251 according to the Rules of Gurudwaras to enable him to go home. I myself say that it is not right to make fortifications, bring arms, guns, rifles and ammunition into the Darbar Saheb, the Golden Temple.

I do agree that the portion of the complex where people were looted, killed and their corpses piled up, was misused. For that, if you try to stigmatise the last 500 years' history, it will be treated as an act of treason against the country, the religion and all.

I may make one thing clear that I have no intention to attack anybody again and again. What great achievement we have made so far? We have failed on every front; we have failed on the price front; we have failed in providing employment and we have failed in bringing about rapid develop-

ment in the country. When we fall on one front, we talk of religion and such other things just to divert the attention of the people.

Our colleague made an assault on the Akali Dal and the Muslim League. So much injustice should have not been meted out to them. Our colleague has since left the House. According to the record, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and hon. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya were imprisoned for their participation in the Akali movement. The members of the Akali Dal used to be members of the Congress and the members of the Congress used to be the members of the Akali Dal. Sardar Buta Singh used to be a member of the Akali Dal. Making a massacre of some one by uttering just one word as a he-goat is killed with an axe in one stroke amounts to a great injustice to your ability as well as the dignity of this House. I would like to say that the Shiv Sena,...

AN. HON. MEMBER : Sardar Buta Singh has since come.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : I said that he has served the country and he is in the Congress. But if somebody joins the Akali Dal, even he is not against the service of the country.

I was submitting that actually we have lost our objective. Since Shri Buta Singh has come, I would like to repeat and say that the members of the Akali Dal used to be the members of the Congress. It is our history that when the campaign to free the Gurudwaras has been won, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mahatma Gandhi has sent a telegram in 1923-24 that a part of freedom struggle of India has been won.

As a matter of fact the hon. Member has expressed his views abruptly. I request him that whatever he wants to say, be should say very cautiously and thoughtfully.

We have lost our aim. Our aim was against some fundamentalists as our Prime Minister during the course of his tour abroad has said that a handful of Sikh terrorists and

a handful of abettors of Sikh terrorists sitting in countries like Pakistan are responsible for these sad acts in this country. It will be a great blunder if all the Gurudwaras and all the Sikhs are held responsible for these acts. Our aim should have actually been against such people.

As a matter of fact basically every Sikh believes in non-violence. But some people have taken the law into their hands which has disturbed all of us in the country. I strongly emphasise and assure the people of my country that the Sikhs in conformity with their principle of non-violence will not indulge in violence, murder, highhandedness, looting, rioting and killing of innocent people. It is a temporary phase and it will come to an end soon. According to the Sikh ideology the feelings of brotherhood, love and patriotism will prevail among us all. After sacrificing his four sons, Guru Gobind Singh said :

Is Desh ke Waste War Diye Sut
Char
Char Muye to Kya Hua Jiwat Kai
Hazar

That is why that ideology, the ideology of brotherhood will flourish here.

What I mean to say is that those who commit mistakes, are themselves isolated. It all happened due to the mistake of the present Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee who are looking after the management of the Gurudwaras. When Barnalaji and we people were looking after the management of the Gurudwaras, we had deployed a task force. Then this law was not there. I, therefore, urge you not to bring forward this legislation, otherwise, the Sikhs will have to confront the religion. During the 14 month period when the task force was there, not a single person could enter the Gurudwara to indulge in any wrong act. We had deployed 200 armedmen there. But as soon as our colleagues took over the management, they dissolved the task force. What I want to point out is that when a large number of objectionable items were seized after the operation black thunder from inside the

complex, the so called bold terrorists defecated and urinated inside the Darbar Sahib. The Shiromani Committee begged pardon and admitted that it was a mistake on their part. Today I would like to congratulate all the Sikhs in the country who express their utmost hatred to those elements who misused the Gurudwaras and spoiled their sanctity. I, therefore, request the Government and urge them that today we should strengthen this thought.

Barnalaji said that religion should not interfere in politics and he advocated for a single united party. He has been fighting for this cause. On the other hand Sushil Muni, a friend of the terrorists is deputed for holding talks without consulting Barnalaji. Now where should we go? What will be our position? I do not say as to who sends him?

You talk of providing protection to religious institutions so that religion is not misused. In this connection I say emphatically that no true devotee in the country will like that his place of worship should be misused. This sort of feelings should be spread among the people.

Yesterday Guptaji said that the Government of Punjab does not issue licences to those people who want to fight the terrorists in their individual capacity. I, therefore, urge the Government to strengthen the hands of those religious people who want to fight these evils themselves.

I would like to refer to one more point that complaints about the religious issue must be removed early. Why is it not being done so? Please listen to what I am saying. Not bringing the religious forces on the line deliberately, involving these forces in a clash deliberately, providing them opportunities to involve themselves in a clash, instigating the followers of a particular religion for having a confrontation, casting aspersions on them, creating a situation and drifting it for a long time, provoking the people belonging to the majority community to ensure their support with an ulterior motive of gaining more votes also amount to misuse of religion.

[Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]

I would like to say further that of late a large number of people were massacred in Delhi, Kanpur and Bokaro. Which religion did they misuse? Why are the culprits not being prosecuted? I am coming to the earlier point again that there were gurudwaras and temples for the last 500 years and none of them was ever misused. Misuse started when a particular person, a great personality in our country retired. He is the person who provided strength to Bhindranwale and then, that great personality harassed all, this is what everybody is saying.

I would like to submit to Sardar Buta Singh who is a good and religious man and warn the whole nation that I am quite sure that the Government will suppress the religions of minorities in the name of separation of politics and religion. You will have, therefore, to assure that this law will not be misused. We do not at all want that religious places should be misused. At the same time we also do not want that the Government should misuse this law to suppress others. Misuse should be checked from both the sides.

I cannot support this bill as I am apprehensive of the intentions of the Government that they will not use this law properly. They will rather, use the law to suppress others. I, therefore, request the Government to try to act on my request.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I rise to support the Bill which has been brought today before the House.

It is the history of our country that religion and culture have played a very important role here. Caravans after caravans of foreigners arrived in this country and the people of this country provided them land for shelter and opportunity to develop and flourish in this country. This is the same Hindustan where the people of all religions have lived together with a feeling of brotherhood for one another. The religion never teaches us enmity with our fellow beings.

The religion also does not teach us disloyalty to the country to which we belong. Instead it teaches us to be loyal to our motherland and to safeguard and serve it. Anybody, to whatever religion he may belong may not prosper in this world, nor he may get solace in the other world, if he betrays his motherland. It is a tragic fact that the history did not forgive the persons who betrayed their motherland. Names of the persons like Mir Zafar and Jai Chand who enslaved their motherland will never be forgotten. We get this lesson from the religion.

We rarely distinguish anybody on the basis of his religion in armed forces. General Sahib is sitting here who knows more about it. These people go to the battle field as real brothers and leave behind all such prejudices. If somebody sustains an injury, it becomes the duty of other soldiers to come to his rescue and assist him. These people attend prayers in temples or mosques with their absolute faith in the Almighty. They embrace one another with love and affection. The God entrusts a responsibility on such people. It is his duty to respect other religions. But the person who is not bound by the principles of his own religion, cannot be called a loyal person. While living in the country if one does not do something for the freedom of the country, he cannot be called a loyal citizen. It is not a fact that the people of this country believing in different religions did preach and practice the ideals like "Swarjya is my birth right", "you give me blood, I will give you freedom", "inquilab zindabad", "Vande Mataram" etc. Ashfaq-ulla Khan Sahib was one of such followers of religions. He was awarded death sentence. While moving forwards the gallows, he had prayed "O God! Will there be a day when India will see the dawn of her freedom..." Were these words uttered by the follower of a particular religion. Religion never preaches enmity and to have malice against others. Islam preaches that if your neighbour is starving and you have a full meal, then it is improper. If you want to go on pilgrimage leaving your neighbour in distress, your prayers offered at the place of pilgrimage will not be accepted. Religion does not prompt us to destroy temples. The religion does not

teach to disrespect the temples and guru-dwaras. Instead it teaches us to respect all religions and live with love and amity. The history of our motherland testifies that in every age people were tolerant of one another's religion. During the Mughal period Hindus were appointed as generals and during the days of Hindu kings, Muslims were appointed as generals, but none of them betrayed the country. He, who betrays the country does not belong to any religion. It is our duty to love our motherland, work for our motherland and live unitedly.

Some of our hon. Members of Parliament complained that our Prime Minister goes to temples and puts a sacred mark on his forehead and also visits mosques. Our religion teaches us that as a Muslim it is my first duty to offer my prayers to God and Rasool and thereafter, comply with the orders of our authorities provided they do not say anything against God and the Rasool. Today the Prime Minister is our boss. If anybody say anything against him, it is our duty not to tolerate such utterances. He is an ideal person who respects every religion. He has regards for every religion. We should apprise our new generation of the difficulties under which we achieved our independence and advise them not to lose it again, and let our country be enslaved just because of our inter-religious feuds. The history will not pardon us if any such things take place. We will forego this opportunity. One, who purchases guns for the security of the country, is defamed by the persons, who are activated by their selfish ends to grab power. Does it not prick their conscience? Are these people not convinced that they should not indulge in false propaganda of a thing which has been purchased for the security of our country. Does their religion allow them to indulge in such things. Our soldiers sacrifice their lives defending every inch of the country's territory. On the other hand these people defame the country for their selfish ends to get it shattered into pieces. Our religion teaches us to live with the feelings of brotherhood and respect for one another. We should so educate our coming generation to ensure that our country does not fall into the fetters of slavery.

We should serve this country. I would like to request the respected maulavis, who are present here, to recall the Ayat No. 80 of Surah Yasin in the Holy Quran which says "who hath appointed for you fire from the green tree and behold ! Ye kindle from it." If you have seen the T.V. serial 'Ramayana', you might have seen that Hanuman also produced fire by rubbing two branches of a tree. If we confine the knowledge of our religion to ourselves, it will be difficult for the people of other religions to know what is being taught to the people in our religious institutions. If we make everything known to all, nobody will foster any doubt in his mind about religion. In this connection, I would like to cite the words of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He used to say—"I am a Muslim, I am proud of that. We have inherited traditions of the last 1600 years. I will protect this legacy. This, I want from the depth of my heart and soul. He rose above it and said that it was his bounden duty to serve his country and that duty was his religion. That is the ideal our religion preaches us. Our temples and mosques are the places of worship. We should use them only for the purpose of worship. Nowhere in the mosques it has been written that we should use them for materialistic pursuits. Nobody has a right to use the religious places for worldly purposes and cause harm to the country. To-day, this very thing is causing harm to us. We should create an example by setting up the temples and mosques side by side. We should infuse such feeling among the masses that may make it a strong country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I request the hon. Minister to reply because a considerable time has been taken on this Bill. I regret that I cannot allow other Members to speak.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who took the Bill seriously, sensed the gravity of the subject and expressed their views accordingly.

[S. Buta Singh]

There is no doubt that there is nothing as sacred as religion. As Shri Banatwala pointed out, religion gives strength to our conscience and mind. Similarly it would not be an exaggeration to state that every Indian is basically a religious man. Therefore, it would be essential to keep religion apart from politics in the interest of national unity. The Government would initiate a dialogue with all political parties to persuade them to sit together and discuss it in the House.

A number of hon. Members have tried to link it with two things. They have their doubts that the Bill is meant to separate religion from politics, but that is not the case. A separate legislation would be brought forward to separate religion from politics and to ensure that politicians do not misuse religion for furthering their political interests. This bill has a limited objective. The objective is to protect the religious institutions or establishments from the political influence. I have clarified in my opening remark what led the Government to bring forward this Bill. The hon. Members are very well aware of the fact how religious places and institutions have been misused. Whenever any mishapening took place, a cross section of the people who suffered the loss demanded to take appropriate measures against the misuse of religious places in order to check the feelings of hatred from spreading and to ensure that the unity of the nation is not attacked. It would help us in maintaining the sanctity of the religious places and would also preserve the basic principles of religion which these institutions propagate. I would like to dwell in brief on the issues raised by the hon. Members. As I stated at the outset, various political parties have all along been demanding to take appropriate measures in order to ensure that religion is not misused for politics and the religious symbols are not used to endanger the unity and integrity of the nation. The character of our Constitution is secular and people define secularism in their own different ways. But, today, these people know it very well that the concept of secularism means equal respect towards all

religions. No religion should be considered inferior. Every religion is supposed to be worthy of equal respect. The Government should avoid any action which is likely to create feelings of discrimination. No religion should be propagated at the cost of other. We believe in secularism and "Sarv Dharam Savabhav" which means giving equal respect to all religions. No religion is big or small. I think this is what every religion teaches. I have tried to follow some of teachings of Guru Granth Sahib. I had also the opportunity to listen to some of the great leaders, saints and Faqirs of Sufi sect. The basic concept of all religions has always been one "Eko dharam dridh sach hoi" i.e., to strengthen the truth and follow the path of truth. This is the only basic concept of every religion though we may render some different names according to the geographical features or a particular language. Religion is based on truth. It may have different names and forms. There may be different means to religion, but that makes no difference. Just now when Shri Khan quoted a verse from Quran and translated it, I felt that Guru Granth Sahib also carried a similar verse. He said that there was fire in every piece of word. Similarly it has been written in Guru Granth Sahib "Sagal Vanaspat maye hai santra"—there is fire in every piece of wood and "Sagal doodh mein ghee"—ghee is found in milk irrespective of the living being to which the milk belongs.

A person churning milk will get nothing but ghee out of it. "Sagal banaspat maye bhai santra", "Sagal doodh mein ghee, ghat-ghat antar jot samahi". The light of God is present in every human-being. The foundation of religion is truth and the truth can never alter. Our clothing, language, way of living and express on may differ. But the truth can never alter. The concept of secularism given by our forefathers like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi lies in it. As truth is the basis of every religion, equal respect should be given to all religions. The citizens of India attribute equal regard to every religion. Every religion is Indian. No religion is alien to us. The various religions being followed by the people of India are our own

religions. We do not believe in picking up quarrels and making propaganda against such things. We also do not believe in instigating the feelings of the people in the name of fundamentalism or language. Every individual has his own way of worshipping. Some people worship fire, some others worship idol, image, shabad (word), book etc. These are the various means to attaining the truth.

15.35 hrs

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER *in the Chair*]

Therefore, it is sinful to spread hatred in the name of religion. No religion has such a sanction. Shri Indrajit will himself realise this when a comprehensive bill is introduced. He does not believe in religion. But truth cannot be hidden. He too has accepted the truth....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) :
 Man is the religion.

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : What is that the Marxism believes in, do you know that ?

S. BUTA SINGH : Yes, I have read it. You accept the reality.

[*Translation*]

You accept the reality. If you try to get at the bottom, you would find the truth.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : You seem to be infused with religious sentiments.

S BUTA SINGH : Politics is a sacred thing and it deals with everyday life. There can be ups and downs in politics. We feel a state of peace when we see God in Brahma Swaroop and get agitated to see him in 'Mayavi roop'. So we should avoid the latter. The purpose of the bill is to prevent wrong doings in the religious places which are meant for attaining purity and truth. Some of the hon. Members became sentimental during the course of their speeches and that

is why they said such things. One of the hon. Members presented the Sikh history in a distorted form and said that the bill was against the religion. I do not want to go in details. I would say one thing. In fact, the main cause of Punjab problem is the misconception created in the minds of innocent masses. They have been forced to develop a complex that they are not a part of India. However, the fact remains that their contribution to patriotism, development and science and technology is unmatched. To conceive a notion that religion and politics are same is a folly. I would like to give a small example as I do not want to go into the details right now. Whenever I get an opportunity, I shall discuss all aspects thereof. They referred to Shri Guru Hargobind, the sixth of the Sikh Gurus and said that he too did not separate religion from politics. They tried to say that first five of them did not even think about it. In a way, these Members have issued a wrong statement against these Gurus. It is not good, I would like to prove it. When Shri Hargobindji found that the circumstances had worsened—Guru Arjun Dev Ji, the Fifth Guru had already sacrificed his life, the social conditions were not conducive and people had started discussing politics in Harmandir Sahib—he advised not to discuss those matters in the holy place. He instructed the people that it was a sacred place, no activity should be carried out which could spoil its sanctity and disturb spiritual concentration of the devotees. He told his followers that they should come out of the temple to discuss such things lest it should tell upon the spiritual strength of the people. He used to rest outside the temple—the place which is called Akal Takhat now-a-days. All discussions also used to be held there. This proves that the Sixth Guru himself separated religion from politics instead of combining them. Guru Nanak Devji served the society and inspired the people to understand the actual meaning of religion. The people of the society had become cowards and he inspired them to gain self-confidence and to develop the feelings of love for their fellow-beings. The Sikh history is replete with such instances. I agree with Shri Ramoowalia. We should be proud of our Gurus who laid down their lives for the

[S. Buta Singh]

people. They are the foundation of our lives. Guru Teg Bahadur had openly challenged King Alamgir of Delhi that forcible conversion of the people was wrong and advised him to follow the path of love. He told him that nobody would be allowed to be converted forcibly. When the 'Badshah' asked him to pay the price, he offered his own life. Many saints like Farid, Baba of Sarhind, Nizamuddin Sahib and Gurib Nawaz Sahib of Meerut carried out the campaign for Islam but with love. Even today a number of Indian pay reverence to God. They have never raised voice against it. Violence, tyranny, hatred should be strongly opposed, be it in Islam, Hinduism or Sikhism. It is a matter of courage and confidence to raise one's voice against oppression. No religion teaches us to hate other religions. Every religion teaches the unity of the nation.

Coming to what Shri Ramoowalia said about Shri Harmandir Sahib, I would like to say that a day had come in the political life of Punjab before Independence when all distinctions between a Congressman and an Akali had disappeared. Shri Dhillon, who is not present in the House, had tried to portray the Sikh history nicely and some other hon. Members had also referred to that by-gone era. They were one so far as the fight for Independence was concerned. The same people were in the Congress Party and in the Akali Dal at different times. I am not supporting a particular party; do not misunderstand me Indrajitji, but in 1956 a situation emerged and it was felt that there was no need to run political activities from religious places. Thereupon an agreement was reached whereby one group was known as Congress Party and the other went by the name of Akali Dal because the latter considered itself a religious party. They were of the view that their constitution provided for only the service of religion. Following that agreement, it was decided that they would not take part in politics any more and that they would only service the society. Election were fought on the basis of that agreement. But a few selfish politician breached the agreement and the political

programmes of Akali Dal started receiving recognition as was the case previously. That was also a critical stage.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : Did Sardar Prakash Singh also contest on a Congress ticket ?

S. BUTA SINGH : Yes, Sardar Prakash Singh contested on a Congress ticket. Sardar Hukum Singh, Gyani Kartar Singh and Gyan Singh Rajwade and many other leaders also contested on Congress ticket. But I want to imply that at that time also it was felt that religion should have no connection with politics. They thought it was better to join a big party if they want to remain on the political scene. The Akali Dal confined itself to the social and religious activities. Thereafter in 1978, an extraordinary turn took place in Punjab politics, particularly Akali politics. The 1924 constitution of Akali Dal was radically amended to give it a fundamentalist orientation and efforts were made to create such feelings among people and mislead them. I have just mentioned about it. Consequently, there were incidents of gruesome violence in Punjab and I cannot forget the Baisakhi day of 1978, when the ruling party aided the spread of violence in an organised manner and it is since then that the Punjab problem began. Violence started since then and the persons who were involved in the killings are being honoured with 'Saropas' inside the Harmandir Sahib. These things strengthen these tendencies even more. The youth are being misled and they consider it as the mission of their life. This should be curbed at the earliest. It will end only when the respectability which has been bestowed to it and violence from within the institution is checked. It will end only when we make such efforts. When directions of this type are issued from this august House which is the Supreme body of the nation, it is only then that this problem will come to an end. We should approach this matter with an attitude of understanding and not of confrontation. This bill is not against any particular religion but a particular situation that is existing in Punjab. It is for protecting the sanctity of all religious institutions.

Shri Ramoowalia had said that volunteers

had been engaged there and I too remember that they had done quite a good job. But what happened subsequently? The Sikhs started saying that the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee, (SGPC) which is a statutory body, is not bound by any law. I would like to oppose this view. SGPC has been constituted under an Act of the Parliament and therefore, all the rules are applicable and there are Government agencies for enforcing it. But when the Government takes action it is said that it is intervening in the religious affairs. In case of election to the SGPC for the posts of the President and other office bearers, the Deputy Commissioner can preside over it but he cannot go inside the complex. It is very strange. The District Commissioner can preside on this body, he can garland its President but cannot go inside to ask them to vacate. If he does so, it will be termed as Government intervention. I really cannot understand it. If we do not put an end to such practices, the institution only will suffer. Shri Ramoowalia knows what has happened. Subsequently, the regular staff of 200—300 who were in service for the last 20—25 years were ousted and 300 to 400 terrorists occupied the office and later it was closed down. The salaries were no longer given and the money which was donated by the pilgrims in the various Gurudwaras was seized and distributed among themselves. Thus, the institution—which was a duly elected body suffered and its very purpose was defeated. Now under these circumstances, there was no other way out. Because this body was created by an Act of Parliament, it had to be given protection. But the most unfortunate thing is that they want all the powers that are granted under an Act of the Parliament but insofar as the responsibilities are concerned, nobody wants to shoulder them. Who is responsible for it? Is it the Government? True, it is the responsibility of the Government. In order to discharge its responsibilities, Government has to go inside. But this is not allowed. If the Government wants to enter the complex they treat it as intervention in their religious affairs. Then how can we save them in such a situation? Who is going to suffer? It is the religious institutions which are going to suffer. We have seen the

extent of damage to the Golden Temple. The pilgrims could not even offer prayers there. Neither the political leaders, nor the common man could go inside the Temple complex.

Shri Dhillon described in detail as to what was actually happening in different rooms of the Temple. I do not want to go in that. It is an old story and is very unfortunate.

We have brought this Bill after giving it a serious thought and with a sense of responsibility. We have no intention of intervening in any religion nor do we want to intervene. We only want that the elected or nominated managers/office bearers of every religious institution—whether it is a Mosque, Temple, Gurudwara or a Church—should have the required power to maintain its sanctity. In case anyone wants to defile the sanctity of a religious institution the Government has no other alternative but to deal with him under the provisions of law and flush him out from there. If that is not possible the Government should punish him.

It is with this intention that this Bill has been brought. It is neither against any particular religion nor against any particular place. The intention is that the institutions and organisations which have been entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining the sanctity of our religious places whether under law, traditions and conventions should be protected. There are several things which are not provided under law but are traditionally recognised and are well established convention or practises which are unique to every religion. We do not want to destroy them. It is better for the Government to have as few laws as possible. But what is happening today. You must have come across that horrible incident recently when about 40—50 dead bodies are recovered from the debris in a religious place. I think such a thing has never happened in a religious place nor do I feel would any hon. Member approve of it. That is why Government has made this effort to curb these things.

As regards the question of religion and

[S. Buta Singh]

politics, we feel that politics is for the service of people and religion is for their spiritual upliftment and progress. Religion should give directions to politics and politics should follow those religious principles. But here it is contrary. Here politics is trying to run religion.

The hon. Members may forgive me for saying that it is not proper to mesmerise people and incite them when they go to attend a religious festival at a religious place. They go to these places leaving behind all their narrow considerations to offer prayers. Ours is an open society and we offer equal opportunities to all to organise political meetings and give lectures and there is freedom in our democratic set up to propagate different ideologies within the framework of the Constitution. But if any temple, mosque or Gurudwara is utilised for this purpose, I think it will not only prove damaging to that religion but also to that particular God, Guru or Prophet. Is it proper to raise slogans in a place of worship where we go to offer prayers? It is an insult not only to that religion but also to that particular God, Guru or Prophet to whom we go to pay obeisance. The earlier these things are curbed, the more it will enable us in maintaining the sanctity, unity and integrity of our country.

Therefore, we think that this attempt made by us is a limited one. If the House passes it unanimously then it will strengthen us paving the way for bringing another comprehensive Bill with support of all of us and efforts will be made to reach an unanimous decision that the political activities are not carried out from the religious institutions and the ideology of the political parties is so shaped that instead of exploiting the religious sentiments of the people a feeling in the minds of the people is inculcated to bring the country forward. This will bring good for the country.

You know that our Communist Colleagues do not have faith in attending temples and mosques and yet they are influenced by their policies and maintain

contacts with them. Ours is an open society. We want all the Political Parties should come ahead with their ideologies, policies and programmes and a healthy political atmosphere may be created in which people are convinced by sound reasoning. Democracy has not yet been flourished wherever religion has been given upper hand over State. We do not have to go very far off to find an example. If we attentively see what is happening in the East and the West, we find that hypocrisy is being practised in the name of elections, religion is being imposed on the State, people are revolting against it, students have come out on the roads in protest and people are creating a hue and cry that they should get democracy of their kind. Today everyone wants that our religious places should be separated from politics and people are not exploited. If all such happenings are brought to an end then our country will prosper and its unity and integrity will be strengthened.

With these words I would like to request the hon. Members that this Bill should be passed unanimously in the interest of the nation.

SHRI SHAMINDER SINGH (Faridkot) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit whether you have thought about the consequences of the politics of the kind proposed to be played? I feel that Lord Rama will be edged out leaving Ravana in the arena have a free play and if you want to corner Rama then...(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put your questions. Please do not deliver a speech.

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, the whole country knows and even the world has come to know that the Government has thrown Ravana out of Harmandir Sahib and Rama is making worship there today.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I find Shri Vijoy Kumar Yadav, mover of the Statutory Resolution, is not present in the House. So, I shall put the Resolution first to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That this House disapproves of the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Ordinance, 1988 (Ordinance No. 3 of 1988) promulgated by the President on the 26th May, 1988."

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I shall put the motion for consideration of the Bill to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the Bill to prevent the misuse of religious institutions for political and other purposes, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration.

Clause 2

(Definitions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2, lines 5 and 6,—

omit "or any cause, issue or question of a political nature" (1)

Page 2, lines 4 to 6,—

for "includes any activity promoting or propagating the aims or objects of a political party or any cause, issue or question of a political nature"

Substitute "means any activity in support of a political party" (12)

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2,—

for lines 23 to 25, *substitute*—

"(f) "religious institution means an institution for the promotion of any

religion or persuasion, and includes any place or premises used as a place of public religious worship, by whatever name or designation known." (16)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2, lines 4 and 5,—

for "promotion or propagating the aims or objects"

substitute—

"in support" (17)

16.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Amendment moved by Shri Buta Singh to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"Page 2,—

for lines 23 to 25, *substitute*—

"(f) "religious institution" means an institution for the promotion of any religion or persuasion, and includes any place or premises used as a place of public religious worship, by whatever name or designation known." (16)

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put all other Amendments to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 1, 12 and 17 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is now 4 O' Clock. Mr. Indrajit Gupta has to initiate a discussion under Rule 193...

S. BUTA SINGH : This can be finished....

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House agrees, we can.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Let it be finished and then the discussion can be taken up.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Maveli-kara) : Let this Bill be finished.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up Clause 3 of the Bill.

Clause 3

(Prohibition of use of religious institutions for certain purposes)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2, line 27,—

for "any premises belonging to, or under the control of, the institution—"

substitute "its premises" (2)

Page 2,—

(i) omit lines 29 to 36

(ii) line 37, for "(f)" substitute "(b)"

(iii) omit lines 40 to 47 (3)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put Amendments 2 and 3 moved by Shri Syed Shahabuddin to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 2 and 3 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

- "That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. D.B. Patil is not present. Mr. Indrajit Gupta. Now Clause 4.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am not moving my Amendment No. 21.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clause 6

(Prohibition of religious fora for propagating political ideas)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, I beg move :

Page 3, (i) line 14,—

for "6." substitute "6. (1)"

(ii) after line 16, insert—

"(2) No political, religious or other organisation apart from the persons entrusted with management of the religious institution, shall be allowed to run an office within the premises of the institution." (22)

I would like to know why they object to this. I have already explained in my speech that no organisation except the Committee in charge of that institution should be permitted to have an office inside the premises. Have they any objection to this? I do not know why they are objecting to this.

S. BUTA SINGH : The idea is quite

good. As I have promised, we are coming forward with a comprehensive Bill when all these things can be considered.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Amendment moved by Shri Indrajit Gupta to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 22 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 7

(Penalties)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Clause 7.

Shri D.B. Patil—Not present.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I beg to move :

Page 3, line 17,—

after "contravenes" insert—

"knowingly and wilfully" (13)

Let us not to be so harsh upon the poor managers of the religious institutions. He would be helpless in various situations and in spite of helplessness, he will be so punished. Therefore, this is a safeguard that is added that only when the manager wilfully, intentionally, knowingly allows to these things, only then he can be punished. But unless he is wilfully, knowingly a party to the act, how are you going to haul him up ? By asking him to inform the police and making him an informer, in that case, he he will risk his life. I am saying this in the context of what is happening in Punjab. There is no such thing as far as Masjids or Mosques are concerned. But think of that also. If he thinks of informing the police over there, he risks his life. So, don't come so harshly upon the poor employee, an ordinary employee of the religious insti-

tution.

S. BUTA SINGH : The hon. Member is a very eminent lawyer. Unless the responsibility is fixed, how can you leave it to him. If there is a genuine case where wrong has been done, the person can come to the court and express his side of the picture. The court will take care of him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I put amendment number 13 to Clause 7 to vote.

Amendment No. 13 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 8

(Disqualifications of persons convicted or charge-sheeted under this Act.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Clause 8.

Shri D.B. Patil—Not present.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I beg to move :

Page 3,—

(i) *Omit lines 28 to 34*

(ii) *Page 3, line 36,—*

Omit "or restrained under sub-section (2)" (14)

Page 3, line 37,—

Omit "or restraint" (15)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I beg to move :

Page 3,—

Omit lines 28 to 34. (18)

Page 3, line 36,—

Omit "or restrained under sub-section (2)," (19)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot move Amendment number 20 as it has been moved by Mr. Banatwalla as Amendment number 15.

SHRI SHANKARLAL (Pali) : I beg to move :

Page 3, line 26,—

Omit "for a period of six years" (24)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Should I put all the amendments together? Now I put amendments number 14, 15, 18, 19 and 24 to Clause 8 to vote.

Amendments Nos. 14, 15, 18, 19 and 24 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Clause 9.

Shri D.B. Patil—Not present.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting For-

mula and Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

S. BUTA SINGH : I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

Sarvashri Ebrahim Sulaiman Salt and G.M. Banatwalla then left the House.

16.10 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

Accident to 26 DN Bangalore-Trivandrum Express between Sasthankotta and Perinad stations of Southern Railway on 8th July, 1988.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up discussion under Rule 193 regarding the accident to 26 DN. Bangalore-Trivandrum Express on 8th July, 1988. Shri Indrajit Gupta will initiate the debate.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Mr. Chairman, it is my painful responsibility to have to initiate this debate which concerns one of the worst railway disasters in history. And what is more tragic is the fact that—I am not blaming anybody for it—after such a major disaster the Lok Sabha has got round to discuss it more than one month after the accident took place. During this one month the inquiry which has been set-up as usual by the Railway Administration—the statutory inquiry—must be proceeding. We do not get any news

about it and we will not get any news either because the findings of these inquiries are always treated as confidential. Why? I do not know. When disasters or accidents take place in the airlines and the inquiries are held the findings of the inquiries are made known to the country and the people but only in the case of the Railways the findings of such inquiries are treated as completely secret and confidential. This is something we have inherited from the British days and we do not want to give it up. I think this is a very anomalous position and an undesirable position and Government should consider changing it. What is there to be so hush hush about it. What led to this disaster should not be hidden from the country. People who have suffered in this accident most of them belong to Kerala State. I think on behalf of the whole House you will from the Chair also convey to them, their relatives and friends our wholehearted sympathies and condolences though it is a bit late in the day.

The other difficulty is that since this inquiry is going on, I presume, the Minister can avoid many questions and many problems by saying that since the inquiry is going on he does not want to say anything which may prejudice or influence that inquiry. Therefore, when we speak about this disaster we have per-force to deal with some general aspects of Railway safety without being able to accurately pinpoint what was the cause of the disaster on that day when these bogeys derailed and fell into the Ashtmudi lake. Unfortunately when the Commission comes to its findings we will not be able to know that also. So we are in a kind of a black-out about the number of casualties. The hon. Minister in his statement made here on 27th July had said that 105 persons lost their lives, 51 sustained grievous injuries and 150 sustained simple injuries. Judging from the different reports appearing in the Press—certainly this matter can be checked from the survivors and from the members of those families who have lost some of their relatives—and if a careful check up is done I apprehend the figures that he mentioned here will turn out to be very much on the low side.

Possibly, the figure will certainly be over

200. Now, Sir, we are supposed to discuss what this accident was caused by. We are not technical people, of course, on this side of the House nor for that matter, are they technical people on that side of the House. So, we have to adopt a common-sense point of view.

The other day, on the 8th of this month, in reply to a starred question 165, put by Shrimati Kishori Sinha, a reply was given by the hon. Minister for Railways. I am quoting two sentences from that reply :

“There is no railway bridge which is considered unsafe for the traffic carried.”

This is a very categorical statement which he has made. Of course, I don't mean to imply that in this particular accident it was the bridge which gave way or the bridge collapsed. There is no evidence of that. But the train was passing over this bridge when it was derailed. As you know, Sir, the engine and the coach behind this managed to get across the bridge in a derailed condition. But they were there and two coaches right at the back were also on the track or just off the track. They were there. But all the seven or eight coaches in between fell into this lake.

In reply to that question, the Minister also said :

“The majority of bridges on Indian Railways are over 25 years old and in sound condition.”

I have no way of challenging this. ‘Over 25 years’ may mean 40 years, 50 years also. In that case, if these statements of the Minister are to be accepted, I would like to begin by asking him a question. If no bridge is unsafe, if all bridges are in sound condition, then what is meant by the expression ‘distressed bridges’? We find in railway publications and journals also that there are a number of bridges which are considered to be distressed bridges. What are they distressed about? They are very safe. They are in sound condition. Nobody should be distressed about them.

I would like to know from him what exactly is the meaning of this ‘distressed

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

bridges' and how it tallies with the reply which he gave to the question which I have just quoted.

I would also like to know whether this particular bridge—over which this Bangalore-Trivandrum Express was going—is one of the bridges which is included in this distressed category. This information, I am seeking.

Sir, in 25 years or more, everybody knows that the speed of trains has increased greatly. If you go back further than 25 years, trains were hauled in those days mainly by steam engines. Now they are being hauled either by diesel engines or electric engines. The speed has increased very much and the density of traffic has also increased very much. The bridges are the same old bridges. About the track, I am coming to that a little later. But I would like to know from the Minister whether there are any speed restrictions. When the train approaches the bridge or actually when it is crossing the bridge, are there any speed restrictions laid down? And in the case of this particular bridge, was there any speed restriction? I can't ask him whether the driver exceeded that restriction or not because he won't be able to reply. If he replies, then that poor driver will be hanged straight away. There won't be any commission of inquiry. But I am asking him whether there is any speed restriction or not. I cannot forget, Sir, that during the monsoon period, we have had a number of accidents, in the past, on the bridges.

On the 6th June, 1981, the Samastipur-Barabanki passenger train plunged off the bridge into the Kosi river killing 270 people. That was also off the bridge. On the 6th August, 1986, the Down Amritsar-Tata Express fell off the bridge in Palamau killing 52 people. In July, 1987 the Dakshin Express capsized on a flooded bridge; sixty people were killed. Then I may take you back a bit further in history to September, 1956. That was the accident at Mehboobnagar which led to the voluntary resignation of the late Lal Bahadur Shastri, who was then the Railway Minister and who took the

moral responsibility for that disaster. This was caused by a breach of the approach embankment to the bridge. Heavy rains had taken place, heavy rains had caused the breach of this embankment and the bridge had collapsed. There was the same statutory railway inquiry. The long and short of its finding was that nobody is to blame. More or less, that is what they said. Why I am pointing this out is that after the statutory railway inquiry into the Mehboobnagar accident, another one-man Commission consisting of Justice S.L.T. Desai was set up to hold a judicial inquiry into that accident. It is not as though this railway inquiry cannot be supplemented or followed up, if necessary, by a proper judicial inquiry. I do not have very much confidence in the confidential inquiries by railway people for obvious reasons. The public at large feel that the whole thing will be hushed up and nothing will come out. Justice Desai who held that enquiry report held the Central Railway administrators and Chief Engineer to be responsible for their failure to provide a bridge opening which was adequate for discharging the flood waters caused by heavy rains. That was his finding. What happened after that? The Government of India disagreed with this finding on the ground that these are very highly technical things; a technical assessment is necessary which perhaps the Judge was not in a position to do, and so that was the end of that. The only casualty was Lal Bahadur Shastri, the upright man as he was, and he volunteered to resign and went out.

I do not have much to say. After all what can one say on this? The bridge No. 19 was not at fault. What about tracks? Before I go on to that, there is one question which I would like to ask. Is it not a very strange thing that the Commission of Railway Safety functions under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and not under the Ministry of Railways? What is the logic behind it? The Ministry of Civil Aviation does not follow the norms of this Commission. When the plane accidents take place, they do not hold this kind of confidential inquiries; that is done publicly. If in the case of Mehboobnagar, nothing came in the way of appointing a judicial inquiry in addition to the railway inquiry, I want to know why in this parti-

cular case, since people are very much agitated and distressed at what has happened, why can't a judicial inquiry be set up?

Let this enquiry be completed. Let us see, because we won't know what the result is. Nobody will know. Will that satisfy the people in this country?

Sir, many commissions have gone into the various aspect of railway safety. There is one Sikri Commission. He was an eminent judge of the Supreme Court. There was a Wanchoo Commission. They have made very important recommendations and findings. They have suggested that the brake power of the locomotives is not always adequate and that certification is necessary which is not always done to certify that the brake power should not be less than 85 per cent. And there should be a periodical inspection. I can't quote their reports, but they made all these recommendations because they find that many of these precautions are not always scrupulously adhered to.

Then there is the question of defective coupling of coaches. Now, the reports are coming in the papers and I think the Minister has also said, or perhaps he has not said because he is a very cautious man, that it was perhaps due to the sudden application of brake by the driver. The train was going at fairly high speed, I do not know what speed. I do not know whether there was speed restriction. Anyway, the driver was supposed to have suddenly applied the brake and that lead to this kind of derailment. Now, I want to know whether the tracks and the bridges, the bridges mainly, and also the signal system are bearing more load than they can actually take. I am talking in general, Sir. I can't talk what happened there.

There is a craze for running fast and superfast trains. Unfortunately most of them run late, only the superfast surcharge is collected from us. The train very often does not arrive on time. That is the experience of the people who travel by Rajdhani Express between Howrah and Delhi. But the point is that this craze for running

fast and super fast trains is all right provided it is not on out-moded tracks, the tracks which are badly in need of renewal, the tracks which are suffering from fractures, what are called hairline fractures which are not visible to the naked eyes but are dangerous. So, I should say that the safety of the passengers on the bulk of routes may have been given lower priority than providing comfort to upper-class passengers on the major trunk routes, the routes linking Delhi with Calcutta, Bombay and Madras and all that. There are these superfast trains running very comfortably though they may not arrive on time. Have the tracks been renewed? How much of the tracks have been renewed and how much remained to be renewed?

I was told some months ago, I can't vouch for the hundred per cent reliability of the report, that some group of foreign railway experts who had come to our country expressed the opinion that in their country if trains were made to run at the speed at which Rajdhani Express runs on tracks like we have got, they will never take a risk like this because anything might happen at any time.

SHRI H.A. DORA (Srikakulam): God is there in our country, otherwise, these trains should not run on these tracks.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, the Sikri and the Sarin Committee accused the railways of not giving necessary priority to the maintenance and renewal of track and other assets. So, there are heavy arrears of track renewal which of course during the Railway Budget discussion every year we are told that it is due to the lack of resources. There is a backlog which has to be made up gradually. That is what we are told. But the point is from the safety point of view what are the implications of this?

Higher speeds and heavier axle loads constitute a major risk on these fractured rails and distressed bridges. I confine myself to these two things, viz. fractured rails which are badly in need of renewal and secondly, what are called in railway terminology, 'distressed' bridges. Obviously, we do not expect miracles. We do not expect that

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

throughout the country, you can overnight renew tracks and everything. The point is not that. The point is, so long as we have got these weaknesses in the infrastructure, how we are going to ensure the safety of these trains running at very high speeds with huge loads.

Derailment of goods trains is very very frequent. You can say that it does not matter because no human life is lost. But on the Eastern Railway stretch, between Mughalsarai and Kanpur and Mughalsarai and Tundla, invariably on two or three days in a week, there is a derailment of goods trains which sometimes succeeds in blocking the main line and delays the trains. Why is it happening very often?

Now, I just want to conclude by suggesting two causes which may be operating. One is the fact that the work is being handed over to private contractors. As far as we know from the workers and employees themselves, the maintenance work on the tracks is being gradually and consciously handed over from the departmental workers to private contractors in many places. I would like to know to what extent you are doing that. What is the policy behind it? As far as we understand it, this is a part of the so called economy drive of the Central Government to get rid of all those permanent Class IV gangmen of the P.W. Department who have been doing this work of maintenance from the days of the British. Of course, they do it manually. But they are very experienced people and nobody has ever complained that due to some negligence or inefficiency of these gangmen, some serious accident has taken place. And they work in extremely difficult conditions. They go about on the track in the scorching sun during rains and winter, patrolling stretches of track allotted to them and they have always been congratulated for doing an excellent job.

I want to know whether the Railways have adopted the policy of gradually giving this work to the private contractors. For example, what was the position here in Kerala? I raise this point because our experience tells us that Railway contractors,

or any other private contractors who are out to make a fast buck will never do the work properly and thoroughly. It is like Mr. Bhagat's handpumps in the Trans-Yamuna colonies, where they were paid for sinking the pipes down to 40 feet, but later on it was discovered that they were sunk at a depth of just ten feet. People are now dying of cholera right and left. This is the way the contractors work. I would strongly oppose such a policy. It is not only the maintenance of tracks. I know it is being done in other departments also, even in the workshops where overhauling and repairing of wagons and coaches take place. A big part of the work is being handed over to private workers. I think this will have a very harmful effect on the efficiency and quality of the work.

Secondly Sir, for some years now, in the name of modernisation and new technology, we know that some machines which are called tamping machines or plasmatic machines are being used for checking the track. These machines are brought, perhaps not in large numbers, sometimes from Japan and sometimes from West Germany. These machines run along the track by themselves and they are supposed to do automatic mechanical maintenance. I would like to know whether the performance of these machines in our Indian conditions has been thoroughly reviewed and studied or not. To what extent are they being used? The Minister should tell us whether their performance is found to be satisfactory or not. Or is it just a sort of modernisation fad? Where tracks are concerned, any kind of latitude or laxity should not be permitted because it ultimately concerns the safety and lives of our passengers.

So, I accuse this Government firstly of not giving us any information at all. Even before the Commission of Inquiry started to work, no factual information was given. All that we have been given is contained in this statement made here in this House. It contains nothing except how many ministers rushed there from Delhi, how many high railway officials rushed there, when they rushed there and so on and so forth and the fact that some amount of ex-gratia relief was given to the victims. Now I read in the papers that about one lakh rupees is

going to be granted to the family of each deceased person. By the way, what is the rate of compensation given to the victims of air accidents? Certainly, it is not less than a lakh of rupees. But generally, victims of railway accidents have always traditionally got much less compensation than those who are killed in air accidents. For example, what was the compensation given to the victims of that ill-fated Air India Jumbo which was damaged by an explosion, off the Coast of Ireland and which crashed into the ocean killing the entire crew and the passengers? I would like to know the amount paid, of course not from this Minister, but as a matter of comparison. How much compensation was paid to the deceased in that case, or in any other major air accident? I think, there is a big discrimination, rather a big gulf, between the victims of railway accidents and air accidents. Considering also the tragic circumstances of the case, they should be dealt with more liberally and more handsomely. We cannot bring them back from the depths, but at least some solace and some relief to the people of Kerala who have suffered in this horrible disaster should be provided. And it is the Government of India's responsibility.

So, with these few words, I move this Motion and I hope that the House will generally press for more information and for points which will not hamper the inquiry but perhaps help the Inquiry Committee.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, July 8th was a black Friday so far as Kerala is concerned. It was on that day, nine coaches of the ill-fated Island Express running from Bangalore to Trivandrum had plunged into the Ashtamudi Lake resulting in the tragic death of 105 persons and leaving another 150 or so badly injured. This gruesome accident has sent waves of shock across the country.

Before I begin, I make use of this opportunity by paying my homage to those people who have lost their precious lives in this gruesome accident.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): On behalf of all of us.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: I also make use of this opportunity to convey my deep sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families. It is my privilege to compliment the commendable service rendered by the locals especially the bold and adventurous fisher folk of the locality who even at the risk of their lives had saved hundreds of people who were involved in this tragedy. I sincerely hope that this discussion will not end as a ritual, as in the case of other discussions on similar subjects. I fervently hope that the hon. Minister will take note of the points raised by the hon. Members in the House and I hope he will take effective steps in this direction.

I take pride in the fact that we have a very dynamic and smart Minister at the helm of affairs of Railways.

I appreciate his willingness to tender his resignation in the light of this tragedy; and I understand the philosophy behind such a move. But I am constrained to say that what is required is a fresh and bold initiative to prevent future recurrence of such incidents. Accidents may occur due to many a reason, and it is for the Ministry to identify the reasons and take preventive and deterrent steps.

The hon. Minister has stated at Quilon that the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety is going to make a thorough probe into this affair. I am at a loss to understand what is special about this inquiry. As Mr. Indrajit Gupta had rightly put it, it is only a statutory requirement. What is important is the findings of the inquiry, and the remedial steps which the Minister is supposed to take. Such inquiries conducted in the past go to show that these inquiries have not helped to fix the responsibility for such accidents. All those inquiries go to show that they were probably intended to cover up the exact truth behind these accidents.

For example, Mr. Indrajit Gupta had cited an example of the 1956 accident at Mahboob Nagar. After it, our hon. Railway Minister Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri had tendered his resignation. It is my strong suggestion that if the Minister has any sincere intention to make amends for this ghastly

[Shri Mullappally Ramachandran]

accident, he should initiate a judicial inquiry by a renowned Judge. Then only will the people be satisfied, and the true facts brought to light. I do not think that there would be anything to be scared of in having such an inquiry. In the ultimate analysis I would like to say that it would only help the Minister, as also the people who travel in the trains.

I wish to draw the attention of the Minister as well as the House to a very significant point. It is not a matter of mere coincidence that over the past two years, at least five goods trains have derailed between Quilon and Kottayam. Had these trains been passenger trains, I shudder to think what the consequences would have been. Here, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of these derailments; and if so, what were the reasons for these derailments, and what steps have been taken by the Minister to prevent future recurrences of such incidents.

I would also like to know how many officers or employees of the Administration have been taken to task after these repeated five derailments between Quilon and Kottayam during the past two years. What explanation can the Minister offer for these tragic incidents? The latest accident about which we are discussing now, has also occurred on the same route. I would like to enlighten this hon. House that people by and large in Kerala believe that it is the callousness as well as criminal negligence on the part of Railways which is chiefly responsible for the accident which occurred at Perinad. If their doubts are unfounded, I request the hon. Minister to come forward and clarify his stand on the derailments during the past two years.

Railways no doubt are spending crores of rupees for renovation as well as maintenance. But, apparently, much remains to be done in this direction. One week before this tragedy, on the 30th of June, the Driver and the Guard of the Madras Mail had registered a complaint with the Administration that there was an unusual jerk when the train had passed the bridge where the present accident has occurred. I would like to know

why, inspite of the warning given by the Driver and the Guard of this train, no proper action has been taken by the Ministry in this regard.

It is also reported that the Driver who was running this ill-fated Island Express was not fully qualified to run the train. I do not know whether it is a fact or not: this Driver was working in the Nagercoil area, and he was recently transferred to the Quilon area, and he was until then only running local trains as well as goods trains.

I am told that he was not qualified to run express trains. Whether that matter is correct or not, I would request the hon. Minister to come forward and given an assurance that the valuable lives of the train passengers would not be left to the mercy of such unqualified drivers.

Another aspect that requires probing is the report of some of the survivors of this tragedy, that the train had been running at an enormous speed. Hopefully the Minister will pay attention to this particular aspect.

I am extremely happy to note that the hon. Minister Shri Madhavrao Scindia, as well as the hon. Minister Shri Krishna Kumar, who is representing that constituency and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri M.M. Jacob and also the hon. Health Minister, Shri Moti Lal Vora and others have rushed to the spot and supervised the rescue operations. I really congratulate them. I note with satisfaction that the Government of India has offered Rs. 1 lakh each to the families of the victims. And, of course, this amount is double the amount that the Railways usually gave to the victims of railway accidents in the past.

It is especially gratifying to note that our beloved Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has already offered Rs. 30 lakhs to the victims of this tragedy. I congratulate our beloved Prime Minister on behalf of the people of Kerala. Moreover, at the instance of the Prime Minister, the Health Minister Shri Moti Lal Vora himself rushed to the spot and he went to almost all the hospitals and supervised the relief operations and he distributed medicines worth Rs. 5 lakhs.

It may be noted that victims of this accident are mostly from poor families or below average families. Of course, the Government has given Rs. 1 lakh per victim. But considering the pathetic financial situation of those poor people I request the hon. Minister to give or provide employment to any one of the family members of the victims. I am sure that this august House will join me on this particular aspect.

I have a humble suggestion to make to my friends sitting opposite to me. There is a tendency to politicise gruesome accidents like this.

SHRI H.A. DORA : It is not.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : What compels me to make such a suggestion is the stand taken by the Kerala Chief Minister, Mr. E.K. Nayanar and his friends. The Chief Minister complained that he and his colleagues were not given proper coverage over the Television after this accident. What a tragedy ! A tragedy much bigger than the one which occurred at Perinad ! I want to say that it is painful to hear that such a statement was made by a Chief Minister like Mr. Nayanar at the site of such a tragic incident and that too in the midst of rescue operations which was done by people of all walks of life.

It is still apparent that there is a deliberate attempt to politicise the entire issue.

It seems the Kerala Chief Minister is authorising his agents to make collections from Gulf countries. Nobody knows the *bona fides* of this action. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he has authorised the Kerala Chief Minister to make collections in the name of those who have died in this accident. The hon. Minister may clarify his stand while replying to this debate.

Before I conclude, I would once again request the hon. Minister to make an objective study about this accident and do all that is possible to prevent the future recurrence of such tragedies.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : Sir, 8th July, 1988 was a day of

sorrow and grief for the people of Kerala, where this accident took place, and also for the entire country.

AN HON. MEMBER : For the entire nation.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : I too agree ; for the entire nation.

This accident took place very near my constituency, only just 20 km. I was there in my constituency, when I heard that this accident took place, and rushed to the place. On the same day one of the young MLAs of Kerala was getting married and the entire Cabinet and also the MLAs and other public men were assembled there. All of them also rushed to the spot.

Sir, I am not going into the details about what happened on that day. First of all, I take this opportunity to place on record my condolences along with other Members of this House to the members of the bereaved family.

I also place on record the contributions made by the local people in the rescue operations.

This accident is revealing certain facts. I agree with Shri Ramachandran on his first two points that it is the result of criminal negligence on the part of the Railway administration. Criminal negligence on the part of railway administration, I do not think, the Government including the Minister can shirk the responsibility. Whatever things subsequently have done, donations, something like that, will not explain the position and will not relieve of the responsibility of the Government from this path.

The track between Ernakulam and Trivandrum is about 200 KMS. and it has been utilised more than 120 per cent. We are using it for many years together. Ten fast trains are operating everyday from Trivandrum. About fifty thousand people are travelling over this bridge, where this accident took place. Ten long distance trains which go to Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Guwahati are passing through this bridge. There is only one single track between Ernakulam and Trivandrum. Sir, Trivand-

[Shri Thampan Thomas]

rum is the capital of Kerala and it is connected by one single track. The contribution of this Government towards Kerala in the improvement of railway for the past forty years, I would like the Minister to account before the House. Britishers, when they were in power, have given railway upto Ernakulam. Because it was Madras Presidency and connecting Madras, there was a broad gauge. I have seen this train first time in my life at the age of eighteen. I belong to that area. A metre-gauge line connecting Quilon and Ernakulam was given in the year 1958. Keralites are working in Delhi. Even in the hon. Minister's office, there might be Keralites working. People who are searching for job, have gone to Delhi, Guwahati and other parts of India from there. From top to bottom, they are moving around. Lakhs of people are living outside Kerala and all these people want to travel.

The maximum profit earned by Railways by way of passenger trains is from Kerala. There are big railway lines in these areas. If you take it on ratio basis per kilometre distance, the maximum profit earned is from Kerala. Because ten trains are running with full capacity. All people are travelling after taking tickets. How much they have contributed? What the Britishers had given plus what was given after 1958, was about 150 Kilometre metre-gauge railway line. Subsequently it was made into single line broad-gauge in the year 1975.

There is no double line track between the capital city and national capital or elsewhere. The capital city is not connected by a double line.

Now, Tuticorin Port has been expanded. When it expanded, goods traffic has also increased. One of the major ports now which is being developed into major port is Tuticorin. I am told that six or seven Jumbo trains are passing through this single track everyday. Other trains are held up for the purpose of goods traffic. Then, oil refineries, oil tankers are moving around. A number of trains are moving in this traffic for the purpose of goods traffic as well as

passenger traffic. Recently in the last Budget, six new trains were introduced from that area to the northern area.

And in these lines, only one track has been maintained by the Government. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any steps have been taken to develop this track?

Six accidents have taken place within a short distance of 50 kms. within a period of one year. The main reason for this is improper maintenance of track system. There are novel methods for maintaining the track. But no such device is available on that track. Over and above that, there is a ban on recruitment. Workers are not there to maintain the tracks. The enquiry is going on and the reasons for the accident will be known later. But one of the reasons which is responsible for accident is the poor maintenance of the track. According to reports, the train was running at a speed of 80 kms. That much speed is permissible on this track. And the de-railment has taken place before the bridge. It is also reported that some three or four days before this accident, some report was made about the track conditions by some other drivers. Looking into all these aspects, one can come to the conclusion that there is a gross negligence on the part of the Railway Administration. Therefore, the Railway Administration cannot escape from this responsibility. Therefore, the immediate requirement is that double lines are given and train facilities are streamlined and such other methods are provided there which would avoid future accidents.

When we look at this problem we find that railway employees are made the scape-goat for this accident. That is not proper. The drivers are forced to work for more than 10 hours a day. There was an agreement between the railway unions and the Railway Administration that they will not be forced to work for more than 10 hours a day. But in spite of that, because of ban on recruitment and also the policies adopted by the Government, they are compelled to work for more than 10 hours. Is it proper? In this case, I am told the drivers were compelled to work for more than 10 hours

that may be one* of the reasons for the accident. Therefore, it is necessary that the railway administration must immediately implement the agreement that was entered into with the recognised unions.

There are certain automatic devices which have been developed by the railways themselves to find out the possibilities of railway accident through some warning system. Has Government provided such automatic systems in that area ?

I am told that about 20,000 kms. of railway track in India is not properly maintained. It is also in a renewable condition. What steps have been taken by the Railways to renew this track of about 20,000 kms. ? I am told that automatic signalling system has also not been provided there.

More accidents take place because of unmanned railway crossings. About 1000 railway accidents take place in a year because of unmanned railway crossings. For the purpose of reducing expenditure, the local bodies and local authorities are asked to bear the expenditure of manning the unmanned crossings. I think, the Railways themselves should take up this responsibility of manning the unmanned railway crossings in order to avoid accidents in such a large number.

17.00 hrs.

There is a possibility of sabotage on the railway tracks in various parts of the country. To avoid that, is there a patrolling system provided ? Earlier in 1977, when the Janata Party was in power, there was a patrolling system of gunmen and RPF. Now that system has been discontinued in order to curtail the expenditure. Also the fish-plates are getting removed. So, new systems and joints should be provided for these. Will such things be done ?

I am told that the sleepers provided for the railway tracks are not of good quality, they are of poor quality. What steps are the Government taking to avoid future accidents, that should be revealed from the experience of this accident. That is one of

my submissions.

Secondly, as my friend Shri Indrajit Gupta has pointed out, the detail of this inquiry may not be available to us. All the papers connected with this inquiry should be placed on the Table of the House and also a judicial inquiry should be conducted into this matter. To avoid future accidents, that is a must.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, by resigning and pinpointing the moral responsibility on himself, had shown that the officers are accountable. In this case who is accountable ? Finally you will make a driver or somebody like that a scapegoat and you will say that it was an accident which took place. I am proud today to say that Mr. Hegde has resigned on the issue of telephone tapping. He has never said that it is the Chief Secretary who had sent the letter...(*Interruptions*). He has taken up the responsibility upon himself. To pinpoint the responsibility and accountability on the officers, courage should be there to resign. It is reported that the hon. Railway Minister had tendered his resignation but the Prime Minister did not accept that. But it was his moral duty to have resigned. Then only the officers can also be made accountable. Otherwise they will also find a scapegoat—a driver or somebody like that—and will say that it was an accident and nothing can be done in such cases. Lives of lakhs of people lie in the hands of the Railways. Even I am to travel by train tonight. I do not know what will happen to me. Even I am in suspicion what will happen. So, if that is the case, it is the responsibility of the hon. Minister to assure the nation that the Indian Railways is safe. This accident has shown that the Indian Railways are not safe. So, the hon. Minister should tell the nation that by such and such action the railways are being kept safe and will continue to be safe, or such and such actions will be taken to keep the railways safe. That is what I require in this matter.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur) :
 Mr. Chairman, Sir, 8th July, 1988 was a

*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri G.S. Basavaraju]

tragic day for the whole country. On that day the ghastly Railway accident took place at Peruman bridge taking a heavy toll of lives of more than hundred passengers.

Every year about 30 to 40 accidents are taking place in the country and hundreds of persons are loosing their lives. Our Prime Minister and the Railway Minister have taken all steps for relief. But the crux of the matter is to go to the background of the accidents. If you look at the accidents that occurred during the last ten years, it will be clear that most of the accidents took place near bridges. Our colleague Shri Indrajit Gupta was mentioning about the construction of bridges. The Britishers had constructed several bridges in the country in the past. There is a vast difference between those bridges and the bridges that are constructed these days.

In this particular accident, speed might have been the cause of the accident. Nine bogies were drowned in Asthamudi lake. Weak track might also have been the contributory factor for the accident. Negligence on the part of the driver also might be the cause. The honourable Minister should go deep into the another and find the real cause of the accident.

17.05 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

During 1956 one fatal railway accident took place near Mehboob Nagar. After that there was another major railway accident near Hyderabad. 1987 was the year of railways accidents as there were a number of accidents. One accident occurred on 9-7-1987. Trivandrum-Mangalore Express, Dakshin Express, Lucknow-Kanpur Express met with accidents and several persons lost their lives in these accidents.

I shall not attribute the cause of accident to natural calamities. Accidents due to natural calamities are very rare as far as my knowledge goes. It is the human failure which is responsible for most of the railway accidents.

In my constituency once accident was

averted one and a half year ago. Due to the alertness of the Station Master and the driver the Bangalore-Poona Express was saved from a fatal accident. The train was stopped before entering the Station. If it had run four meters further the accident would have occurred and at least four bogies would have been derailed.

The Railway administration is weak. The unions donot have co-ordination. These aspects have to be set right because lakhs and lakhs of people travel by trains daily. These passengers should not be frightened. They should have confidence in the Railway journey. For Motor Vehicle accidents we have tribunals. I suggest that Railway accidents claim tribunal should be set up to help the affected rail passengers. Air passengers are insured. Motor Vehicles are also insured. Similarly train passengers should also be insured. For this purpose the Railways department can collect one per cent of the fare towards insurance. Insurance is very important and very essential for all the rail passengers.

There is one newly constructed unguarded open bridge near Alamatti across river Krishna on Sholapur-Gadag section in Hubli Division of South Central Railway. This is the most unsafe bridge. Hence the trains that pass through this line are always late. I urge upon the hon'ble Minister to look into this matter immediately.

The Contractors and the engineers who are responsible for construction of weak bridges and over bridges should taken to task. I have written several letters to the hon'ble Minister in this regard but so far no action seems to have been taken.

One bridge was inaugurated in our Constituency. The contractor had put my names on the foundation stone without the knowledge of the authorities. This bridge collapsed within one year of its opening ceremony. This is the fate of railway bridges. On other bridges even in the national highways crores of rupees are spent on their constructions and hence enquiry should be ordered about the such gross negligence of the contractors and engineers. I hope the hon'ble Minister to help the victims of the accident at Asthamudi lake

in all possible manner. I also urge upon the Minister to take steps to see that no such accidents occur in the country in future.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the magnitude of the tragedy is known to this House, I may say. As was very well described by my hon. colleagues who spoke earlier, 105 people lost their valuable lives due to the negligence of the Railways. But for the timely intervention of the local fishermen and the leadership given by the authorities including the Chief Minister of the State who was on the spot luckily, the toll would have been much higher.

Sir, this accident occurred four days after the accident involving the Siddheswari Express and the Minar express on the Bombay suburb and exactly on the same day on which our Railway Minister's pet train, Satabdhi Express, was supposed to start from the New Delhi Railway station. That was postponed because of this accident. And this shows the priorities of the Railways. Now, the Indian Railways give preference to pomp and splendour at the cost of the safety of the passengers. Sir, these types of accidents are not occurring regularly not because of want of any efficiency on the part of the railway authorities but because of the sheer luck of the passengers who are travelling in these trains.

Sir, now an inquiry is being conducted. I know, these inquiry reports are placed on the Table of the House. Some Members have mentioned that this is kept as secret but it is not so. Regularly, these reports are placed on the Table of the House and they are a public document. (*Interruptions.*)

Now, an inquiry by the Railway Safety Commissioner, as usual, is being conducted. I do not know what sort of an inquiry report, they are going to give. The report may be exonerating right from the Railway

Minister downward all the concerned officials and all the concerned persons who should take the moral responsibility. It may be like a Shankaranand Report, I do not know. But whatever may be the tone of the report, the general public in Kerala genuinely believe that this ghastly tragedy occurred only due to the negligence of the Railways to Kerala and especially to this part of Kerala. I could come to that later. These types of accidents will occur again and again, if this negligence continues. Let us admit, first of all that the Railway Safety Commissions and also the Estimates Committee of this House have repeatedly pointed out about the urgency of properly maintaining railway track. I think in the last Lok Sabha, the Estimates Committee in which Mr. Bansi Lal was the Chairman, had done an elaborate study and one of the most important points they had mentioned is that these tracks are not properly maintained. The Sikri Committee and the Sarin Committee reports also point out that the Railways are not taking seriously this maintenance of tracks. Let us admit that. There are thousands of kms. of tracks which you are not properly maintaining. I think, Kerala is the highest casualty in this regard. The Minister may deny that. A former Minister who was handling this Railway portfolio came to the accident spot. I do not know who authorised him to come there and he had the temerity to say, temerity to tease one of the Kerala State Minister who said that these tracks are not properly maintained. He was teasing the State Minister in front of the Press persons. He is none other than Mr. Jaffer Sharief. Who else can do that ?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : Who was the other Minister ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : He was cantankerous.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, multi-million rupees investments are going on in the Railways. They say, it is for modernisation of Railways. But they are not concerned about the track maintenance. As Mr. Thampan Thomas has rightly pointed

[Shri Suresh Kurup]

out, the density of traffic in this area is very high, especially from Trivandrum to Cochin. Now even the Railway officials admit that the traffic has attained the optimum level and it is only a single line there.

It has been the consistent demand of the people of Kerala and all the Governments—present and past—of the Kerala State that this track between Trivandrum and Cochin should be doubled but they are not taking it seriously. At least, after this type of accidents, I hope that the Railway Minister and the Railway Department will take this seriously.

I understand that this track maintenance is given to private parties. When these points were raised in the other House, the hon. Minister denied them. But our information from the railway employees and also from some office-bearers of the railway union is that this track maintenance is now given to private parties, the replacement and the other various phases of this maintenance is given to private parties.

I would like to know why this maintenance is taken away, why some important aspects of this maintenance are taken away, from the railway engineering department and given to private parties and why within a short span of two years, six accidents occurred, six derailments of the goods trains have taken place. Were these derailments enquired into and whether the authorities have submitted any report to the Railway Board here? Is the hon. Minister aware of it and whether any action was taken on it?

As regards the bridges, as comrade Shri Indrajit Gupta has pointed out, I do not know whether this bridge is considered a distress bridge or whether this bridge was under observation.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what was the condition of this bridge and whether this bridge was placed under observation, whether any speed limit was prescribed for the trains while passing through this bridge.

In many parts of our country, railings are there on the side of the bridges. But we cannot find a single railing by the side of any of the bridges in Kerala. I do not know why. This is one of the major bridges, Ashtamudi. I would like to know whether the railway would consider putting railing at least on the side of the major bridges in Kerala.

As regards the bogies, I do not know whether the hon. Railway Minister has travelled in any of the II Class bogies of any train.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):
Has he travelled by train at all?

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I have travelled both in II Class and I Class by the train Island Express. I would like to inform this House that the most dilapidated bogies are attached to this Island Express.

According to the railway authorities themselves, the life span of a bogie is 25 years. The hon. Minister should inform this House how old were these bogies of the Island Express. It is the practice of the railway to give the most contaminated bogies to Kerala. Island Express is one of the very prestigious trains of the Indian railways and one should personally travel in II Class in that train to know in what sort of condition those bogies are. I say that the Island Express is the worst train. The hon. Minister should explain how much old were these bogies.

Another information I want to get is whether the checking of the brake system of the train is done properly by the Department and whether this checking was done to this particular train when it halted at Ernakulam Junction.

I would also like to know whether the driver was competent enough. I do not know whether it is correct or not but there are rumours that this particular driver was not competent enough to drive an Express Train. I think that man was in utter panic situation. The Press reports indicate that the train was moving at a speed of 80 KM per hour and brake was applied suddenly and even the driver told some Press Repor-

ters that he applied brake. He himself admitted this. This appeared in the newspapers. The Minister should clarify.

In conclusion, I would like to mention some points. One of my hon. colleagues on the other side mentioned that the Kerala Chief Minister and some others were complaining about TV coverage; they were not properly given proper coverage on the Doordarshan. Nobody has complained about that. We, on our part, are not so particular about our faces appearing on that idiot-box. But, I would like to mention one thing here. The Railway Minister and the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and also the Health Minister, all these Central Ministers, came there after some 10 or 12 hours. Almost all the Cabinet Ministers in Kerala including the Chief Minister were there in Quilon at that time and they had rushed to the spot... (Interruptions) Luckily they were there. (Interruption.)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : The Chief Minister of Kerala has specifically made it clear at the Press Conference that he was not given proper coverage on TV. That is also there. That appeared in the newspapers. (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Doordarshan was not mentioning anything about the presence of the Chief Minister or his Cabinet colleagues. Do you think it is not worth-mentioning? (Interruption.) I would like to say that the TV and Doordarshan are nobody's family property. The Chief Minister of that State is entitled to get proper coverage. These people show the faces of all these Central Ministers.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Of all the Chief Ministers, the Chief Minister of Kerala is getting the maximum coverage on TV in the regional news bulletins and current affairs programmes and we have statistics to prove this

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No. (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : The people of Kerala know who is getting the maximum coverage.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Let us talk about the tragedy rather than the TV coverage. (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : We are not political vultures to make political capital out of this. But I would like to mention about one aspect of Mr. Scindia's statement there. While talking to the Press Correspondents there, he refused to mention one word about the State Administration and the services they rendered. You should compare it with Bihar. Even the Times of India wrote an editorial yesterday. You should read it. Those people who capsized in that river in the Boat tragedy there, their dead bodies have not yet been recovered. You compare that with the efficiency of the Administration in Kerala. He could not find a word of praise for the Chief Minister of Kerala or to the Administration of Kerala. We do not want your certificate. But you should at least show such niceties when you come to a tragic spot like this. Shri Krishna Kumar had the temerity to say that the services of the Collector were mentioned. Probably he may be remembering his IAS days. (Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : I think Collectors are representatives of the State Government. (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I don't want to mention that.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : I went to Kerala not to indulge in niceties, tea-parties with the Chief Minister of Kerala. I went there to do what best was possible in such a tragic circumstance. As far as the Administration is concerned, I did mention about it.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : You should have the courtesy to mention that.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : did mention about that.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : You said that the Collector was mentioned. (Interruptions) After coming back here, he enacted

[Shri Suresh Kurup]

the drama of resignation. Who is accountable for this? Who is responsible for this type of a tragedy? The political leadership should take the responsibility.

He enacted a drama; he leaked to the press, "I have submitted the resignation to the Prime Minister, but the Prime Minister has not accepted it". How can he accept it? He is not owning moral responsibility to any of the acts of omissions and commissions of his Party or his close colleagues. He should follow the example set by his predecessors like late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri whose son is sitting beside him.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): Sir, this major rail accident, this heart-rending tragedy occurred at Peruman bridge over the Ashtamudi lake, a site within the parliamentary constituency which I have the privilege to represent in this august House. In fact, over one-third of the fatalities have been from Quilon constituency. As the people's representative, as the Member of the Lok Sabha directly concerned with this tragedy, I pay my respectful homage to those who have lost their lives and express my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

In the afternoon of the 8th July when news of this accident reached me in Delhi, I immediately contacted the hon. Prime Minister as well as the Railway Minister. The Railway Minister was already engaged in a meeting to mobilise the rescue operation. I accompanied Shri Scindia in an overnight journey by a special plane to Trivandrum, in fact, in a 7-seater plane, non-stop for five hours, as waiting for a bigger plane would have entailed further delay for our journey. I would like to thank my colleague, Shri Scindia, for immediately rushing to the accident site as well as for the able leadership he had given to the rescue and relief operations. Perhaps, as most of the hon. Members rightly pointed out, the greatest heroes who emerged from this tragedy are the local fishermen and other adventurous youth of the locality who at,

grave risk to their own lives, would have saved not less than 200 passengers from the jaws of death. I would also like to congratulate the police, the fire force, the district administration, the doctors and the nurses under the State Government as well as the Railway, the Navy, the Army and the other Central Government personnel who laboured night and day for many days under the most trying conditions in organizing the rescue and relief operations. The interim relief announced by the Railways for this accident was double the rates which were normally applicable hitherto. The Railway Minister has already announced a compensation of about a lakh of rupees to every bereaved family. I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister for promptly releasing and making available to the Chief Minister of Kerala Rs. 30 lakhs from the Prime Minister's Distress Relief Fund. Altogether, each of the bereaved families would be getting about Rs. 1,30,000 which, I understand, is the highest quantum of compensation so far paid in respect of any railway accident. Sir, nothing can compensate the loss of human life. We can only console those who have lost their near and dear ones. I had, at that time itself, visited all the 28 houses within my constituency which accounted for 35 deaths. I would have liked to visit the other houses spread throughout Kerala also, but that was impracticable.

In my own way, I am liaising with the State and the Central Government agencies to organise rehabilitation for the victims of the bereaved families on a long-term basis. And I have already set up a control room or a cell at Quilon for this purpose and started organising voluntary agencies as well as State Government and the Central Government agencies for this purpose.

I am thankful to my colleague Shri Scindia for responding favourably to our request for sanctioning of a foot bridge over Ashtamudi Lake, *inter alia*. This is not directly connected with the accident as such, but this was a long-standing demand of the people of the area. This foot bridge will connect the two islands where in the normal course, many accidents take place of pedestrians who use the Railway Bridge. There are cases in which even children going to the schools jumped

into the Lake to avoid on-coming train. I would like to request my colleague that the work on this project may be started immediately and that it may be completed within six to twelve months. I understand that the Railway Board has already initiated the preparation for estimates. Sir, there is no politics in death, there is no politics in sorrow, no politics in the death throes of all those unfortunate victims trapped in the sinking train or in the continuing agony of the bereaved families. The Central as well as the State Government agencies have done their best in organising relief in the given circumstances and that is the perception of the people of that area. That is the true perception, as I believe it. Five Central Ministers visited the site as also the entire cabinet of the State Government under the leadership of the Chief Minister Shri Nayanar. I would like to congratulate both the State Government and the Central Government, as the Member of Parliament from that area for organising relief in a prompt way and giving succor to the victims.

The Indian Railways is the second largest railway system in the world and Asia's largest, with perhaps the least accident rate, controversies and arguments notwithstanding. We are a world leader in Railways. Sir, I started my career as a Railway Engineer and I am proud of the Indian Railways which is now giving consultancy services to other railways elsewhere in the third world and other countries. With no fear of exaggeration, I can say that under the administration of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and under the leadership of my colleague Shri Madhavrao Scindia, Indian Railways are making tremendous strides in all its operations including modernisation and development.

Some questions have been raised regarding the allotment of railway outlays to Kerala. As a representative from Kerala I have also been making several representations for more consideration and more projects to Kerala as well as speeding up the existing projects. And this is an ongoing process. But I understand that in the track renewal programme undertaken with added emphasis by the Central Government, virtually every piece of track which required renewal in Kerala has already been renewed and that the tracks have been completed.

The Kerala tracks were put only in 1975 with the introduction of the broad gauge especially in this section and only curves with more than three degrees required track renewal and that has already been completed. Therefore, this accident cannot conceivably—I do not want to go into any details because this is the subject matter of an enquiry—be directly attributed to such aspects as track renewal. Sir, in spite of the best technology, in spite of the best care, accidents do happen due to equipment and human failure. We can only learn from the accidents and use this knowledge to reduce the probability of accidents in the future.

I am in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. A comment was made that the Members of the State Cabinet who visited the site were not given adequate coverage by Doodarshan. I would like to crave your indulgence in pointing out that this is an accident happened in the railways which is a Central Government Department and five Central Ministers rushed to the site. Naturally, in so far as the Central Government is ultimately responsible for relief, rescue and rehabilitation operations. In matters concerning the Central Government Departments, the visit of the Central Ministers of course received greater attention in the media.

But the hon. Chief Minister of Kerala as well as Shri Nadar, the State Minister who is technically in charge of the Railways in Kerala were given special coverage by Door-darshan. In fact, interviews were taken from them. Unfortunately, they chose even that opportunity to pursue and implement their one point programme—viz., criticizing and denigrating the Central Government. They did not say anything about organising the relief. They used the entire telecast time allotted to them for finding fault with the Railways and saying that the accident has happened due to the negligence of the Railways.

The people of Kerala are most literate, they are politically alert and they can always understand and appreciate even the nuances of politics. I do not think the people of Kerala have taken kindly to any attempt to politicise this great tragedy by whoever it be.

[Shri S. Krishna Kumar]

Incidentally I would say, though this is not the time to say it, that in a recent analysis that we have conducted in our Ministry and which we are ready to give in Parliament, of all the regional news and current events coverage by Doordarshan all over the country, the most coverage has been given or has been availed of among all the Chief Ministers of India by Shri Nayanar, the Chief Minister of Kerala and the Marxists Party in Kerala. The second largest coverage goes to the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu and the Marxists Party of West Bengal. After that, roughly only half of the above coverage in terms of newslines etc.,—we have statistics, we can prove it and these are incontrovertible statistics—comes Chief Minister and Ruling Parties even such big States as U.P. and Madhya Pradesh.

The improvement of the safety of the railways is an imperative and continuous process and I hope that this ghastly accident which has taken place in my constituency and the lives lost will spur the railways towards greater efforts for railway safety. I pray again for the accident victims. May their souls rest in peace.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Did he reply to any question of facts ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : I am not the Minister concerned.

SHRI B. B. RAMAIAH (Eluru) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on an occasion of this kind first of all we have to pass a condolence message and send it to the bereaved families. On the 8th of July, the 26 Down Bangalore-Trivandrum Express which is also called Indian Express had a very grave accident due to unfortunate reasons which we have to find out.

The major purpose for us to discuss this matter is to review the position as to what exactly has happened. Whatever happened we may not be able to do much except to help the bereaved families to get proper compensation and also to get them relief and employment. This part of the responsibility

of the Railway, I am sure, the hon. Minister will take care of.

The second part of it is how this has happened, the reason—for this and the cause and who is responsible for it. It is very important to know whether it is the maintenance department of the Railways or any other department which is responsible for it. Whoever is responsible we have to make a thorough investigation about it. Both the sides of the House have agreed to have a judicial inquiry into this. This is absolutely necessary in an accident of this nature. You remember a similar accident happened in Andhra Pradesh at Manchrala in Adilabad district last year where we lost about 60 lives. As somebody else has also mentioned these accidents are happening quite often and derailment has happened quite a number of times. Obviously this shows that there is some lapse and the Railways will have to pay more attention on the maintenance aspect. As has been mentioned by my colleague also the 56th report of the Estimates Committee has said that track maintenance is one of the important items and the condition of bridges also needs much improvement and proper care. The dilapidated condition of coaches is known to everybody.

In fact on the one side we say our Coach factory has got surplus capacity whereas on the other side we do not have proper replacement of coaches. We are also trying to export coaches to other countries but we also need proper assistance from other countries. The accidents usually happen in monsoons. That shows our preparedness for monsoons is not upto the mark. In Japan they have lot of typhoons and earthquakes yet they are able to run the Railways more efficiently. If we are required to get help from them then we should not hesitate in getting the same. We have enough people in this country who can learn things and understand things and work hard. There is no shortage of manpower but it is only a question as to how does the Ministry utilise the manpower in these things. If we can make use of these things then we can avoid accidents in future. No doubt accidents happen in other countries also but what I say is that we can minimise them to the maximum extent provided we take proper care in maintenance. Negligence

aspect has to be taken proper care of.

Coming to the actual accident I would like to say the figures in respect of grievous injuries and simple injuries may be correct but the figure of people who have lost their lives is not correct because we do not maintain a list of passengers travelling by train. Then there can be ticketless travellers also on a train. It is only from the number of bodies that have been recovered or the complaint of the people about the loss of their relatives that we have made this guess work. Just like in the airlines we do not have the list of those travelling by the train. The railways should maintain a list of passengers travelling by any train so that we may have a proper understanding of these things.

There is one more factor which I feel worries everyone of us. It is about the overtime or the long duration of duty that the Indian drivers have to perform. If it is a fact then it requires proper judicious control. We should not over-use these people. If we use them beyond a certain limit then their efficiency goes down. The Ministry should be able to take proper care in this respect and try to minimise the over-working of the drivers on the Railways.

With these few words I thank the Deputy-Speaker for giving me an opportunity to speak on this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it was a heart rending news for everyone to hear about the Railway accident in Ashtamudi Lake. Everyone who heard this news was stunned. It was a major accident which took 105 lives and nearly 200 people received injuries. The question arises as to what were the duties of the Government after this accident. The foremost duty of the Government after the occurrence of such an accident anywhere is to provide relief to the victims and take due care of them. After listening to all the speakers and getting all the information by means of the newspapers, I feel that the Government has fulfilled its duty admirably in this regard. Five Central Ministers visited the spot. The local fisher-

men deserve to be heartily congratulated because they saved hundreds of lives risking their own lives. The district administration also fulfilled its role. No complaints were received from any quarter to the effect that any kind of carelessness was adopted due to which people had to suffer or lost lives. The victims were provided a compensation of Rs. 10 thousand instead of Rs. 5 thousand. Though it is not an adequate amount but perhaps rules do not permit to provide more compensation to them. But I would certainly like to submit that when so much is being talked about socialism in the country then the railway travellers should get more compensation. The Government should take note of the fact that the airlines-travellers get a higher compensation than the railway travellers.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Now it has been raised to Rs. 1 lakh.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : You know how much compensation is paid to the airlines travellers. The authorities should take responsibility to provide jobs to the nearest relative of the victims. You should fulfil this expectation. The question also arises as to how this accident occurred. In the modern world no one would be taken to this argument that it was a historical lake haunted by a ghost or a divine curse which is responsible for this accident. Gone are the days when people used to believe in such superstitions. We have to find out the fault that caused accident and see what can possibly be done. There may be a possibility of an old track or an old coaches of the train behind this mishap. If this tragedy occurred due to non-maintenance of old coaches, then the citizens of the country have right to know from you in that regard. The second suspicion is whether the axle etc. were out of order or else the axle of the coaches were not in a working condition due to which the accident occurred. It will also be looked into whether the driver or the staff were at fault or else is there any technical reason behind it. The hon. Minister should clear these doubts. A complaint was made when a jerk took place but the goods trains were derailed. There after the railway authorities did a lot of work. I would appreciate the hon. Minister because

[Shri Banwari Lal Purohit]

the overall performance of the railway is satisfactory. The leadership which the railway department has got in Shri Scindia is absolutely satisfactory.

Just now it was demanded that the Railway Minister should resign but I would like to know its reason. First of all, I would say that it was wrong if the hon. Minister tendered his resignation to the hon. Prime Minister under the grip of emotion after visiting the site and seeing the tragedy. Suppose if a war is going on somewhere and the enemy side blows our plane, then should the Defence Minister face the situation bravely or leave the battlefield by tendering his resignation? Such things should not take place. The most regrettable thing is that when an accident of such dimension has taken place in which 100 people lost their lives and nearly 200 persons got injured, the Chief Minister of Kerala and other Ministers got angry by the mere fact that their photograph was not published in the newspapers. What will the citizen think about such leadership. The subject of debate today is to consider as to what steps should be taken by us to prevent such accident in future. We have read for the first time in the newspapers that there is a Railway Minister in Kerala also. If you do not get angry about the photograph and think about the 15—20 lakh people who elect representatives and send them here...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Please do not mislead the House. Do not give a wrong interpretation.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : This is the work of the newspaper agencies. The sad part of it is that so called Railway Minister of Kerala is very angry because in spite of so much of hard work his photograph did not appear in the Newspapers. We people are there to serve and we should only serve the masses. It is not appropriate to expect that our photograph should appear in the Newspapers if we have saved a life. This will no longer remain a service. We should go to the depth of the accident and find out the causes of the accident. So far as the judicial enquiry of the accident is

concerned, I have got the information that your Safety Commissioner is having holiday at Lucknow. My submission is that you should get it enquired from the Chief Engineer instead of any officer or Engineer so that it may be found out as to where an error was made and no one may pressurise anyone.

[English]

SHRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukundapuram) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are discussing one of the worst train accidents in the history of Indian Railways. The accident which occurred on Peruman bridge on the Ashtamudi lake on 8th July is the worst ever train accident that Kerala has seen. This accident has shocked the whole nation and the people of Kerala have not yet come out of this shock.

It may not be possible to know the exact causes of this accident before the inquiry report is submitted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety. However, certain facts have emerged from the statements of the passengers who have survived and the people who actually saw the accident taking place. It has been accepted that the train was coming at a very great speed. The speed recorded is 80 kms. per hour. It has been more or less established that the engine had derailed a few yards before the bridge. But it moved on and crossed the bridge because of the high speed. When the engine and one bogie crossed the bridge, the driver applied sudden brakes. This caused the accident. Had the driver not applied the sudden brakes, the bogies would have crossed the bridge and the derailment then would not have caused such a heavy loss of life.

18.00 hrs.

Why did the driver apply sudden brake when most of the bogies were on the bridge is a thing which is beyond our understanding. May be he acted in panic and be lost his presence of mind. That only shows he is not an experienced driver. It looks very mysterious that he applied brake only when his engine crossed the bridge. Could not the driver have known that by applying sudden brake the bogies which were on the

bridge would fall into the deep Ashtamudi lake and result in heavy loss of life? The fact is that he is an inexperienced driver and he was driving passenger trains in the Nagarcoil sector. The most important question is why such an inexperienced man was given charge of the train? I would like to know the views of the Minister on this question.

The next point is about the level of maintenance of this train. It is said that after every 6 or 8 hours run, the brake system and other safety systems of the train are checked thoroughly. There were reports in Malayalam papers that no such thorough check is being done on the Island Express. This is a very popular train in Kerala but at the same time the worst neglected train too. It has been said that on that fateful day no check was done while the train halted at Ernakulam. I want to know whether it is a fact. If it is a fact, then who is the responsible official? What have you done to him? Have you fixed the responsibility on that official for serious negligence?

The accident on Peruman bridge brings into focus the sad neglect of Kerala by the Railways. Perhaps Kerala is the only State where the rail bridges do not have side railing. It is very surprising that the railways have so far not thought about providing side railing on the major bridges in the State. Not only that, anybody happens to be on the bridge when a train comes, he will be crushed under the wheels as there is no space on the bridge for him to move over to. In fact many deaths have taken place on this bridge in the past. I would, therefore, request the Minister to take immediate steps to put up side railings and footpath.

It is reported that of late a number of accidents have taken place in the Kottayam-Quilon sector involving goods trains. I fail to understand why the Railway authorities failed to take it seriously. All this shows that the Railways are not paying any attention to the vital question of rail safety in Kerala. This neglect, the attitude of indifference and neglect shows that there is no hope of improvement in rail service in the State. I will cite just one example to prove this point. The Kerala Express running

between New Delhi and Trivandrum had brand new coaches when it was introduced a few years ago. Now most of its bogies are very old and useless and the amenities provided in the train are very poor. The food supplied is rotten. The 3-tier sleeper coaches are packed with people who perform short journeys causing a lot of inconvenience to the long distance passengers. Although it is a fast train, it moves like a Janata Express stopping at most of the stations between New Delhi and Nagpur. Practically every day it runs late by 3 to 4 hours. Is it the way a long-distance fast train should be treated? But there is nobody to take care of it.

Coming back to the accident, I want to say that the claims of compensation should be settled quickly. The rules should be liberalised in order to entertain the genuine claims coming from relatives of the dead whose bodies could not be recovered. There is a strong possibility that some bodies might have been washed away into the sea or eaten away by big sharks. Some of the bodies recovered after two days had certain parts eaten away by fish. So, the possibility of more bodies missing is very much there. In that case purely on technical ground the claims should not be ignored.

Finally, I would like to request the Government to suitably reward the local fishermen who saved a good number of the passengers. Words are not enough to describe their courage and sense of duty. But for their timely help the casualties would have been much worse. Therefore, the Government should do something to help those poor people. With these words I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It has been decided in the Business Advisory Committee's meeting to extend the time of the House if necessary to finish the work. I think we can extend upto 7 o'clock and try to finish it today. I hope the hon. Members will accept it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI I RAMA RAI (Kasaragod) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, a threadbare discussion has already taken place about the accident

[Shri I. Rama Rai]

between Sasthankotta and Perinad over a bridge on the Asthamudi lake through sabotage is not ruled out. But the surviving passengers' opinion was that the accident was caused due to the application of a sudden brake. It is learnt that the train derailed before entering the bridge and after passing the bridge only, the driver applied the brake. That might be the reason for this accident. That is what the surviving travellers have told us.

This ill-fated train had crossed its counterpart, viz. the train that was coming from Trivandrum to Bangalore at Sasthankotta a few minutes before the accident occurred. Therefore, it is clear that the track has no defect. I think, the speed of the train and the untimely and sudden application of the brake must have been the reasons for the accident. Now, talking about the bridge, I feel that the bridge might have been in a sound condition, but the driver might be a man with an unsound mind. This also may be yet another reason.

It is said that time is the greatest healer of wounds. In this case, a lot of time may be required before the wounds are healed. In this accident, many have lost their family bread-earners, many have lost their children and many have lost their husbands and other relatives. According to our hon. Minister, in this particular accident 105 lives were lost, 51 people were injured very seriously and about 150 people sustained minor and simple injuries.

As far as the relief work is concerned, the Railway Ministry and the local civil administration and the Navy and other people have done a commendable job. But for the local fishermen, the toll would have been much higher. Within minutes, just in half-an-hour, it is said that nearly 200 fishing boats of different sizes came to the spot and the fishermen jumped out of the boats and rushed towards the half-submerged and submerged coaches to pull out the suffocating passengers. No words can describe the saga of human courage at that moment.

Now I come to another point. Many hon. Members have taken pains to mention about this point in great detail. It is about the report of the Commissioner for Railway Safety. This report is usually considered a confidential document and it is not published. That is what I learnt after coming to Parliament. On many occasions, we have discussed many matters concerning the Railways. But nobody has asked for this report on any occasion and nobody has taken pains to find out whether this report is published or not. The old system of the British days is even now followed as far as the report of the Commissioner for Railway Safety is concerned. Secondly, though the office of the Commissioner is originally dealing with railway safety and accidents, it is under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. This is yet another anomaly or confusion which is not explained.

This report is pushed under the carpet for some time, so that people would forget the accident. Subsequently the report might be presented beautifully. There is a saying: 'The operation has been successful, but the patient has died.' This is what happens in such cases. About two-thirds of accidents in the Indian Railways are due to human error. This is what we learn from the documents. We can avoid these human errors by giving suitable instructions to the officials concerned at the proper time.

Crores of rupees are spent after these accidents. Why cannot we follow the saying: 'Prevention is better than cure'? Why should we not spend some money on these tracks and on some of these bridges? The people, especially in Kerala, are worried and are putting so many questions to us. But we are, after all, not technical people. But as people's representatives, we are supposed to answer their questions.

In some parts of Kerala, we have had torrential rains during this rainy season. Do the Railways have any arrangements for special checking of the bridges before the monsoon?

Another question is whether the Driver in question was an experienced one, and whether he was of sound mind. The answers

to these questions have to be given by the Government.

There are so many other aspects of this accident which have to be dealt with. But the less we talk about the Kerala Chief Minister the better it will be. He has gone to the extent of putting an advertisement in 'Kuwait Times' seeking donations from the people there to help these railway accident victims, thus indirectly telling them that neither the Government nor the people here are competent to help these victims and their families. This amounts to lowering the prestige of our country. That is what I would say about it at the moment.

I would suggest that the report of the Commissioner for Railway Safety should always be placed before the House ; and it should be allowed to be discussed. I would also suggest that unless we can ensure 100% safety of the track, Super-Fast trains should not be sanctioned. You should also consider having an insurance coverage for railway passengers. It will be a good idea.

So many other suggestions have been given already by our friends here. I hope that all these discussions will result in steps being taken to reduce the number of accidents in the Indian Railways in future.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : The devastating accident to this Trivandrum-bound Island Express was indeed heart-rending. Our hearts go out to the families of the bereaved ; and we extend our condolences to the bereaved families. Our sympathies are with those who were injured. We have a consolation in the fact that the Union Ministers, Ministers of the State and all the responsible authorities, without losing any time whatsoever, rushed to the spot.

The Minister of Railways also did well by offering his resignation and taking up the moral responsibility. Of course, there was no need for him to resign, but that showed the sense of responsibility and the grief at the tragedy. Indeed, had the local people and the local fishermen not come forward, the tragedy, one shudders to think of the dimensions it would have taken. We are grateful to them and we are proud. We from Kerala are proud that courage and

immediate action was not wanting at the appropriate time on the part of the local people and the fishermen.

Now, what could be the causes of this heart rending tragedy is a matter of investigation. There may be defects in tracks, defects in locomotives, defects in coaches, bridge collapse, human error—so many things can come up. The point that I want to emphasise is that the inquiry must be completed as expeditiously as possible, and then its causes must be made well-known. The travelling public must know clearly and without any ambiguity whatsoever what were the causes that led to the tragedy and what follow-up action is being taken to avoid, or minimise as far as possible, such tragedies.

It is most unfortunate that even on such occasions politics has its play. Speculations are rife with respect to the causes for the tragedy and then if we do not have the report in time and if that report does not get the widest possible publicity, then especially in this sensitive area of Kerala the political exploitation in the absence of the proper publicity to the causes etc., would be maximum. We already have an indication of it before us. I do not want to go into that sordid aspect right now. But I must say that it is the laxity on our part that the reports do not come in time which lead to speculations about the causes and then there is exploitation, politically mooted exploitation with respect thereto.

Another point is that we should not be told in terms of statistics that we are doing so well in safety measures and all that. Even one single incident would be a tragedy here in this area. There was a sense of complacency with respect to our records in relation to train accidents. We are told that we have hardly 1.1 accidents per million train kilometres. But this should not be a cause for any complacency. Even at 1.1 accidents per million kilometres, the fact remains that the incidence of accidents in the country is the highest.

Here we have the report from the Comptroller and Auditor General, the report that was presented to this House in the month of March.

The Comptroller and Auditor General's

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

Report noted that no targets were fixed for inspection of safety measures. One would like to know what is being done with respect to such a grave observation of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The Report further said that as far as rail track testing is concerned, hardly 37,954 kilometres of rail track testing was completed against the target of 58000 kilometres. There is therefore a lot of deficiency in this particular area and I must emphasise that it must receive priority in the hands of the Government.

Some time back, we had Sikri Commission recommendations and if I am not mistaken, the Sikri Commission has recommended Safety Commissioners for each of our Zonal Railways. I would like to know from the Government as to the action taken with respect to having Safety Commissioners for each of our Zonal Railways.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, let us look at the cause wise analysis of the train accidents. We find that among the total accidents, human failure accounts for the highest number of train accidents. In 1985-86, there were 717 unfortunate accidents and the human failure, specially the failure on the part of the railway staff claimed 484 of these accidents. We therefore find that out of a total of 717 train accidents, 484 accidents were because of the failure of the railway staff. Similarly in 1986-87, out of a total 644 train accidents, 418 accidents were because of the failure of the railway staff. I must therefore emphasise that this particular area, namely the failure on the part of the railway staff, must receive prior and greater attention and all the necessary steps should be taken to see that this particular failure is avoided as far as possible.

I do understand that in our safety strategy, there is now a switch to technological devices in order to reduce our dependence on human element. But there also, there is need for an element of caution because we find from the statistics that the number of train accidents is on the increase because of the failure of equipment. The increase may be marginal, but the increase is there. I

must therefore emphasise that proper attention should be given to this area also.

There is another area, which is there. The number of train accidents is on the increase because of unmanned level crossings.

Here, unfortunately, the attitude taken by the railway authorities is very unhelpful. Whenever we approach the railway authorities for the manning of these level crossings, all sorts of technical objections are raised that local people, the local panchayat must come forward with the necessary funds. And if the local panchayat specially in places like Kerala, is very poor, then nothing can be done. Die—that is the freedom that is given over there. Therefore, there must be proper flexibility in our rules that at least in those places where panchayats are poor and are not in a position to give the necessary capital contribution, it is seen that these dangers and threats to life are eliminated. Unfortunately, such unhelpful and unresponsive attitude is there on the part of the authorities that just before rising to speak, I was feeling very much frustrated as to whether to speak or not. Even against our small, small suggestions, all sort of technical objections are raised. And those suggestions from the local people, local representatives are frustrated by an unresponsive attitude based on mere technicalities.

There is a consolation in the fact that the hon. Minister has pointed out that the compensation and relief that is being given to the people here in this case, is the highest. If this accident was the worst in the history of Indian Railways, then the ex-gratia grant or compensation that is being given—though there can be compensation for loss of life—is the maximum. But even then we find that delay takes place. I must, therefore, emphasise on expeditious settlement of claims, Proper rewards be given to fishermen and it is necessary to see that it is the fishermen who risked their lives, get the reward rather than those who were standing on the shores merely receiving the passengers and the dead bodies.

We had a very irresponsible attitude on the part of the Chief Minister of Kerala advertising in the Gulf countries for funds

for relief of those affected. I must ask the Government : Was there any paucity of funds to provide relief and compensation to the people ? It was not there. But mere political motivation and an attitude that smacks of degrading the nation, was indulged into by advertising in the Gulf countries for the relief of our people. We must take strongest possible exception to such an attitude on the part of the State Government. At the same time, I emphasise and urge upon the Railway Minister to see that there is no paucity of funds whatsoever to come to the succour of the victims in time.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the rail accident on the Periyar Bridge in Kerala reminds me of the Badlighat accident of 1981. I had visited the site of that accident. This has given me a first-hand knowledge of the plight of victims of rail accidents. In the Badlighat rail accident, one-fourth of the victims were unable to get any compensation. Instead, technical points were raised such as whether the deceased had bought a ticket and what was the number of the ticket. The travellers had drowned and it was difficult to find out whether they had bought a ticket or not. Many people travel by trains without informing their relatives. Only after 2-3 years do the victims's kith and kin come to know of their relative's demise in the rail accident. Exactly the same thing happened in the Kerala train accident involving the Island Express. People were returning in the week-end most probably without the knowledge of their relatives.

Today, the situation is such that every train is overcrowded. On my frequent travels by rail I have seldom seen a train which is not overcrowded. Many people buy tickets even when reservation is not available. Compartments are filled upto three times of their actual capacity. I do not know much about conditions existing in the Kerala Island Express but I know about most of the other trains which are generally over crowded and with this I can assume the number of passengers in Kerala Island Express. The names of many passengers might not have appeared on the reser-

vation charts. So I request that an insurance cover be provided when the passenger buys a ticket. In foreign countries there is a system of issuing insurance covers along with tickets to enable the next of the kin of the passengers to claim compensation in the event of an accident.

As far as compensation is concerned, the amount has been increased from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh. This amount may be reduced to Rs. 75,000 if need be because the amount itself is not important. What is more important is the need to provide a job to at least one member of the victim's family. After the death of the bread-winner, his family faces a lot of problems. Recruitment in the railways provides for jobs to the dependent or widow of the railway employee killed in a rail accident. At least one dependent of each person killed in a rail accident should be provided with a job.

Whenever a discussion on railways is held in this House we demand new lines or change from narrow gauge to broad gauge of the existing lines in our respective constituencies. This does not result in our demands ever being met, but the hon. Members are satisfied that they have had their say in the House. Maximum emphasis should be laid on railway safety. Neither the hon. Members nor the Rail Ministry gives this aspect the importance that it deserves. The hon. Minister would certainly have received a preliminary report about the cause of this accident. I have carefully gone through the newspapers from both North and South India. After reading the reports and editorials in each, I found all newspapers at variance with each other. Some find fault with the locomotive, some with the track while others say the coaches or the sleepers were defective. Most of the newspapers say that the driver was overspeeding. The Rail Ministry has an instrument called the 'Speed Recorder' which can determine the speed at which the train was moving.

Why is the Government reluctant to make public the findings of an inquiry conducted into a mishap ? Nobody gets to know anything. The findings of the Badlighat inquiry are as yet unknown. Such inquiries should be entrusted to the Safety Commis-

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

sioners only and not to the judiciary. But the findings must be made public. The inquiry report must be discussed in this House because safety of passengers is of supreme importance.

One of the newspapers said that majority of accidents are caused by human error. No doubt the accident in Kerala also resulted from human error. But the Railwaymen's Union is so strong that the Government dare not take action against any railway employee. Let the hon. Minister give an assurance that action will be taken against whosoever is responsible for the lapse. The whole country will praise the hon. Minister if he does so.

Every month we hear of accidents at railway level crossings. It is said that a heavy expenditure will have to be incurred to make every railway level crossing a 'manned level crossing. Yet, is anything more precious than human life? The railways have a large number of employees. Let the hon. Minister give an assurance that all level crossings would be manned. People can be recruited on a part-time basis for manning the unmanned level crossings. Maximum attention should be paid on safety measures.

The Government should not show reluctance in presenting and discussing the reports of inquiry commissions in the House. In this way others will also be able to adopt safety measures.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) :
Hon. Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I shall take very little time. First of all, I pray for the peace of the departed souls of the victims of the railway accident. Then I want to thank the people belonging to Government and other organisations and the public who helped in the rescue operations.

I will be brief and try to focus the hon. Minister's attention towards some points. Some people are looking the accident from a political angle. This attitude has been condemned by the public around the country. The hon. Minister may rest assure that whosoever tries to lend political colour to such incidents will have to face the wrath of the public.

I request the Government not to entrust the inquiry to either the judiciary or the Commissioner of Railway Safety. Nothing can be gained if the inquiry is conducted by these officials. The inquiry should be conducted by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety under whom the various Commissioners of Railway Safety would function. The office of the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety is located at Lucknow. Let the Government ask for the inquiry report. Perhaps this will remove the wrong notion of some of our hon. senior colleagues that inquiry reports never come to Parliament. As far as I know, the Safety Commissioner's Report on rail accidents is placed on the Table of the House. An inquiry should be conducted quickly but there is no point in instituting a judicial inquiry. Thanks to the Opposition, the judiciary has been subjected to a lot of mud-slinging in Fair Fex enquiry. Now no Judge would be willing to be a member of any inquiry commission. This is the Opposition's gift to the nation. Today, a Judge participating in a judicial inquiry will invite a lot of criticism. So the Government is requested to take note of this matter.

When Shri Shastri's resignation was accepted by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the step taken by the former was praised in the House even though the country lost a capable, honest and duty-bound Railway Minister. We want to thank the hon. Prime Minister for refusing to accept the hon. Rail Minister's resignation. The Railways' progress during the hon. Rail Minister's tenure has been no less notable. The hon. Rail Minister is a sentimental person. He has converted the entire Railway organisation into one big family, which is not an easy task. The hon. Railway Minister's tenure would be known as a golden period in the history of Indian Railways. I encourage the hon. Minister to keep up the good work. We are all grateful to him.

I would like to submit that the enquiry may be conducted by the Chief Safety Commissioner and every thing is made public so that all the doubts in the minds of the Members of Opposition are cleared.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the people of

the country is apprehensive about one point. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention, particularly of our hon. Colleagues from Opposition that immediately after the accident two statements were made. According to one statement the Chief Minister hold that the accident occurred due to lack of proper maintenance of track. The entire track was renewed in 1984. Shri Krishna Kumar who had occasion to look after the Department of Railways has also said this. It was renewed in 1984 and doubts are now being raised in 1988. The State Chief Minister is not a technical person, even then he levelled his first charge about maintenance. Some of the union leaders as well as some hon. Members in the House also, pleaded not to interrogate the driver lest he should be made a whipping-boy. This thing is being reiterated from the very first day till to date. Then how is it possible to go ahead with the enquiry of a railway accident without interrogating the driver. The intension is to hold the enquiry. The question of saving or implicating the driver does not at all arise. Everybody, whoever is concerned with the accident, should be interrogated and action deemed necessary should be taken against the guilty, I would like to express my thanks to you for your hurriedly rushing to the site and conducting rescue operations there. You rushed to the site within the least possible time by a small aircraft and reached there at 3 A.M. The people of the country know it. You did your duty with dedication and showed your fullest sympathy and compassion to the victims. Our colleagues raised the point of compensation. You should personally take the responsibility of providing adequate compensations to the appropriate persons. We will be very grateful if at least one person from each of the family is provided job. These innocent persons have been killed for no fault on their part. I have tried my best to say whatever was possible. Now it is upto you to pay attention towards it and arrange the report of enquiry at the earliest so that the main cause of the accident could be known and the people of the country could be assured of non-recurrence of such accident in future.

***SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY (Nandyal) :**
 Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Railway accidents are taking place quite frequently. During the days of British, the railway accidents were very rare. The main reasons for the growing number of train accidents, I feel, are the indiscipline and irregularity. When a train accident took place in 1956, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the then Railway Minister resigned setting a fine tradition. This noble step had such an impact that the rate of accidents came down sharply. The main reason for the accident that we are discussing now, is that the concerned officers did not perform their duties well. Devotion to duty was lacking on their part. The selection of drivers is far from satisfactory. Drunkards and persons who do not take their job seriously are being selected as drivers. The very process of selection is defective. The irresponsible drivers are contributing to a large extent to the growing accidents. The present accident attracted the attention of the media because the train involved was an express train carrying hundreds of passengers. Only when there is some loss of life it gets publicity. On the other hand several accidents involving the goods trains in different parts of the country are taking place. These accidents involving goods traffic are by and large ignored both by the Government and the media. Hence whether there is publicity or no publicity, the Government should try to probe deep into the matter and arrive at the root cause for the growing number of accidents. There is a major defect somewhere in the present functioning of Railways and the Government should try to find out that defect and rectify it. Many of the bridges were constructed during the days of British. These bridges are not being maintained well. Engineers, who draw fat salaries, do not take sufficient interest in their duties. They do not check the condition of bridges thoroughly. This is an important point that the Government should note. The dereliction of duty on the part of these officers is not excusable. Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had to resign for the lapse of the officials. Since he was an upright person, he owned the responsibility and resigned on moral grounds. Then too,

[Shri M. Subba Reddy]

it was a case of dereliction of duty of some officials. But the resignation of one man will not change the scenario. The set up is not going to change with the resignation of a person. The irregularity is on the increase now. As though this irregularity is not sufficient enough, the irresponsibility on the part of officials is also going up simultaneously. Sir, we travel by trains quite frequently. It is everybody's knowledge how irresponsible the drivers are while discharging their duties. In foreign countries, the drivers compete with each other in efficiency. Such drivers are amply rewarded when they drive the train punctually. The drivers are awarded prizes if they reach the destination half an hour earlier. But, here in our country drivers compete with each other in flouting the punctuality and may perhaps receive awards if they drive the train 24 hours late. This is the position prevailing in Indian Railways today. It speaks volumes of the present administration. Hence what we need is a thorough change in the present set up of the administration. If we persist with the present set up the trains continue to run late then accidents will continue to occur. Hence I plead for a thorough change in the entire set up from top to bottom. The track maintenance is also not satisfactory. Quite a number of people are engaged in the track inspection. There are quite a number of gangmen also who are engaged for this purpose. But are they doing justice to their job? We are not in a position to see whether they are checking up the track and coaches regularly and thoroughly. Nobody takes it seriously whether these employees are carrying on their jobs satisfactorily. There are many persons involved and only when every person performs his duty well, then only a train can run safely. The drivers should not be considered as being entirely responsible for the accident that takes place although. I agree that irresponsible drivers do largely contribute to accidents. Sir, whenever any accident takes place, many a precious life is lost. There will be many in the list of victims who were direly needed for the nation. The country will be deprived once and for all, the valuable services of many able bodies and able minded people. Very recently a boat accident took place in Bihar.

The reports say that overloading was the reason for the accident. Sir, whenever any accident takes place, departmental enquiries are conducted. But, Sir, I am against such departmental enquiries. The departmental enquiries do not serve any purpose. A judicial enquiry should be constituted. Only a judicial enquiry can unearth the reasons for the accidents. Various departmental enquiries conducted so far could not help us in pin pointing the reasons for the accidents that have taken place. Hence, there is no use going for a departmental enquiry in the present case. Accidents are on the increase. Many accidents take place on roads every day. The owners engage unqualified persons as lorry drivers as they are available at lesser wages. The unqualified and unfit drivers are the root cause of many accidents. Many of such accidents are going on without any notice being taken either by the Government or the media. On the other hand accidents involving buses are not many. The reason for the less number of accidents where buses are involved is that the drivers are qualified and responsible. The employment of qualified drivers is contributing to a lesser number of accidents while the employment of unqualified drivers in lorries is contributing to more number of accidents. It shows how important is it to employ the right type of persons as drivers.

Sir, the administrative set up has to undergo a thorough change if we want that the accidents should be averted in the future. Computers are being installed everywhere. The electronic equipment is very useful in efficient control of every system. We should by to instal the necessary equipment near every bridge to forewarn us about the impending floods. Lightning conductors are being fixed on top of every major building in order to protect it from lightening and thunder bolts. Similarly suitable electronic equipments and indicators should be installed and made use of at every bridge to save it from floods. This will help us in preventing train accidents. Otherwise accidents will continue to take place and lakhs of rupees of compensation would continue to be distributed. It is really pitiable that many a precious life is being lost everytime during these accidents. To hold the hon. Minister responsible for the accident is not proper.

There is a lot of machinery involved in it. Railways are a very big organisation. Such a big organisation like Railways need a Minister of Cabinet to preside over it. Only a Minister of Cabinet rank can do justice to the department. Hence the status of the present incumbent in the Ministry of Railways should be raised to cabinet level. There are many top ranking officials functioning in the Ministry. Hence only a Cabinet Minister would be in a better position to control and guide them. The Ministry had been degraded in the recent years. Once again it should be upgraded and put in the change of a Cabinet Minister. Let me hope, that the present Minister of State for Railways would be elevated to a Cabinet rank very soon. However competent he may be, he will not be able to do justice as long as he continues to be a Minister of State. Hence once again I plead for elevation of the present incumbent to the Cabinet rank.

Before I conclude, I once again stress the need for improving the administrative efficiency for averting accidents in future. I thank you very much for the opportunity you have given me to speak.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I also join my hon. colleagues in praying for the peace of the departed souls and conveying our condolences to the bereaved families. We expected that a discussion on this subject would be taken up in the House in the very beginning, but unfortunately the discussion on this important matter could not be taken up as we were busy in some other matters. Our hon. colleagues have expressed doubts over the enquiry of the Railway Safety Commissioner. I cannot understand what is the justification behind their doubts. So far as the accident aspect is concerned, every one of us knows about it. The Railway Board and its members are more concerned about it than us. The Government has accepted most of the recommendations so far made by the Safety Commissioner and taken action on them. I do not find any justification for raising finger over his competence. It is in the records that no efforts have ever been made to cover up the shortcomings pointed out in the reports by the Railway Safety Commissioner. In the

present case we are confident that they will try to go deep into the matter. I agree to the suggestions of Shri Bairagi that it will be better if the hon. Minister raised the level of enquiry of the Railway Safety Commissioner. As a matter of fact I do not doubt about the competence of the Safety Commissioner of the zone where the accident took place. In addition to him, his senior officers should also be associated in the enquiry and their report, when received, should be laid on the Table of the House and there would be no harm if it is discussed publically outside the House. I would like to lay stress on the point of track renewal about which it is being said here repeatedly that the Government did not accord required priority to this work. But in fact the efforts made by the Railway Board to clear the backlog of track renewal in the Sixth Five Year Plan by spending money on this count during Seventh Five Year Plan have been appreciated by all of us. In view of financial constraints, we should appreciate their difficulties. It is not true that the accident took place due to non-renewal of the track, because the accident is not at all related to track renewal. The then hon. Minister Shri Krishna Kumar had said 3-4 years back that the track renewal work had been completed. Still a general feeling is developed that the accident caused due to non-renewal of track, it will somehow or other boost the track-renewal work on which you are spending 25 per cent or more amount. Besides the people of the country will come to know about it and you will receive support not only in the Parliament but of the people outside the Parliament as well. I was, therefore, submitting that there is no harm if the report of the Safety Commissioner is made public when it is received.

Several of our hon. colleagues drew the attention of the House towards reconstruction of bridges. I understand that the hon. Minister has started the work vigorously and got 300—350 bridges re-constructed. Instead of making a complaint on this account, it would have been more appropriate had our colleagues complained that Kerala was allocated lesser amount for railway work. Every Member of Parliament wants and often makes complaints that his consti-

[Shri Harish Rawat]

tuency should get more and more railway lines. But there are some unfortunate persons like me sitting in this House whose constituency is lying vacant without a single railway line.

When we discuss here that the Government will take up the track renewal work vigorously and more funds will be allotted for this purpose, we feel that our rights are being snatched away. Areas already covered get benefit by it. Even then I am in favour of according priority to this work because this is a work of national importance.

I do not agree to the views of my colleagues that Kerala has been allocated less funds, because the State has been allocated the highest amount during 1986-87 as compared to its population and area. It was Uttar Pradesh followed by Bihar which have been allocated lowest amounts. There would have been a justifiability had the hon. Members from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have made such complaints.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I understand that some of our hon. Colleagues have made unsuccessful attempts to politicise this issue. It will be most unfortunate if this issue is linked with politics. We would have praised the Government of Kerala had they extended cooperation as quickly as the Ministry of Railways, the Government of India and the three wings of the Defence Services did on their part. We should see that the whole country with all its resources at its command should come to the rescue wherever and whenever such accidents take place. The Government of Kerala and the leaders of the State committed a grave mistake by dragging politics into this matter. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you will be surprised to know that some people even put obstacles when the hon. Minister was prepared to reopen it after track renewal was completed and the Railway Board issued a communique to this effect.

Our hon. Colleagues have tried to impute political motive behind the resignation tendered by the hon. Minister for Railways. There is no politics in it. Hon. Shastriji was a great man. I do not want to compare the hon. Minister with Shri Shastri. The

hon. Minister is serving the railways as an ideal Railway Minister. He is engaged in the task of leading the railways ahead as a good leader and as the head of a family. There is no need to submit resignation. There is no need to flee from responsibilities. There are a lot of challenges before the Railways. I, therefore, would like to submit that he should accept those challenges with greater degree of courage and boldness so as to minimise the number of accidents.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to share the views and sentiments expressed by Shri Balkavi Bairagi and other hon. Members. We are very grateful to the Prime Minister for not accepting the resignation of the hon. Minister. I would like to submit to you that instead of being carried away by the sentiments, he should work with firmness and face the challenges confronting the Railways. The country as well as the entire House is with him in this task.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak today with a sense of great anguish because of the tragic accident that took place in Kerala last month. We, in the Railways, believe in accepting and categorically stating that we, in every way, deeply feel our own moral responsibility when such tragedies occur. There is no way by which we would escape that. That feeling and that sentiment occurs in our mind. I am deeply indebted to the kind words spoken by Mr. Banatwalla, Mr. Balkavi and Mr. Harish Rawat. Undoubtedly, they will further embolden us to redouble our efforts in our task, shoulder our responsibilities and fairly and squarely face the challenges that are ahead.

Sir, the House has consistently, over the last couple of years on every occasion whilst offering constructive criticism, tacitly given us support in our work and offered support to our policies. I detect this undercurrent today also. I am deeply indebted to the House. I would, at the outset, like to express my deep appreciation for the incalculable and commendable support given to the relief operations by the local fisher-

men. They rallied to the cause and many lives were saved because of their efforts. It is unfortunate that at the time of such a tragedy, there have been people who have, as Mr. Banatwalla rightly said, tried to politicise the situation. I would not like to indulge in a dialogue through you, through the Parliament of this country with such people because I feel that I then would also become a victim of that temptation.

If I try and answer them, I will also tacitly and indirectly be indulging in introducing an element of politicisation in this tragedy. Therefore, I will refrain from rebutting what some people in Kerala, including some Ministers, in a very intemperate fashion have stated about this accident, making wild accusations. I am myself not a technical man as Mr. Indrajit Gupta has said, and I would not venture to go into the technical aspects of it. It is because of this that we eagerly await the Report of the Commissioner for Railway Safety, so that the man who is totally competent on the subject could furnish us the information as to what the causes were, what our lapses were, if any, and his recommendations as to how we should to rectify those lapses.

19.00 hrs.

I will deal, individually, with some of the major points that the hon. Members made. My hon. friend, Shri Indrajit Gupta, asked why these Reports should be kept confidential. At the end of the financial year, the Ministry of Civil Aviation submits the Report of the Commissioner for Railway Safety which includes all the major accidents that have occurred during that year whose reports have been furnished during that year, along with the causes, affixing the responsibility as to whether it was a failure of equipment, whether it was a failure on the part of the railway staff, whether it was sabotage, whether it was because of the element of nature, and giving us recommendations as to what we should do about it in the future. This is the document that is presented to the House annually. So, I do not think there is any attempt to maintain secrecy about it.

There was some talk also of a judicial

inquiry. In exercise of the powers conferred under section 84 of the Indian Railway Act, the Central Government in the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation have framed rules captioned 'Statutory Investigation into Railway Accident Rules, 1973, for inquiries into accidents by officers of the Commission, and under these Rules, all major railway accidents where above a certain number of casualties occur or a financial damage over a certain level occurs are inquired into by the Commissioner for Railway Safety. Inquiries into accidents by the Commissioners are in the nature of public inquiries. Wide publicity is given through the local press, inviting the public to tender evidence bearing upon the accident being inquired into, and wide press coverage is given when this evidence is tendered. It is not something which is held *in camera* in a very hush hush way. So, the Annual Report, as I said, of the Commissioner for Railway Safety is a public document. It contains the salient features and major recommendations in respect of all the major accidents inquired into by the Commissioner during that year. Railway working is one which is of a highly technical nature and, therefore, the officer or the authority inquiring into such accidents must be some one who has some railway experience, who has the technical abilities and who can expeditiously try and pinpoint the likely causes of the accident.

It was because of this that the organisation called the Commissioner of Railway Safety Organisation was set up under a different Ministry to ensure total independence. In fact, when the three Ministries were merged—Civil Aviation, Railways and Surface Transport—we recommended to the Government that is the three Ministries were now coming under one Cabinet Minister, the Commissioner of Railway Safety Organisation should be removed from the Civil Aviation Ministry and put under another Ministry under a different Minister. This is evidence of our own desire to ensure independence of that organisation.

Also, as I said, judicial enquiries can be very long-drawn out. The purpose of a judicial inquiry would be to ensure independence of the authority which the Commissioner of Railway Safety Organisation

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

already has ; to ensure that any member of the public could appear and give evidence which is done ; to ensure that the enquiries are not held *in camera*, which the Commissioner of Railway Safety does not do. At the same time, the process is very much expedited because of the technical expertise available. I am expecting the Report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety within a very short while. It is because of this that we are adhering to a time-tested process, I am sure his recommendations will be of great benefit to us. We ourselves are most anxious to know what the causes could be. It is also our effort to implement his recommendations.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : In toto.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : In toto. I believe if my memory serves me right, that in the last five years, we have received through such reports, approximately 200 major recommendations. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : How many of them have been implemented ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Let me complete. About ten to fifteen are in the nature of observations leaving about 180 or 185, of which between 175 and 180 have been implemented by us. The same matter was raised in reference to the Kunzro Committee of 1962. I would like to dispel any notion that may exist. Unfortunately, I can expect a few Members of the Opposition to be very charged on this occasion and try to use it in a way as to launch an offensive, on the Government. But I was quite surprised that a couple of our Members on this side also who seemed to exhibit some sort of notion that we are trying to brush things under the carpet. I would like to inform such Members that...(*Interruptions*)

Let me finish. Don't be so sensitive. I wasn't meaning you. Sir, the Kunzro Committee of 1962 had given 462 recommendations of which 85 were observations,

leaving 377, out of which we did not accept 23. There was a disagreement on 23. 354 recommendations out of 377 have been implemented.

The Wanchoo Committee of 1968 gave 531 recommendations, of which there was a difference of opinion in 91 and 399 have been implemented.

In the Sikri Committee Report of 1978 there were 459 recommendations of which 429 of the accepted recommendations were implemented and those under implementation are only 30. What the point I am trying to make is that we find these recommendations very useful in locating the lacuna in our method of operation. We try and improve and overcome that lacuna through our planning, through our investments, so that the same reasons may at least, if not be completely wiped out, be diminished in the future.

Mr. Indrajit Gupta who normally always presents his views in a very sober and balanced fashion unfortunately did make a statement that he expected that there were many more deaths than 105. I would not like to speculate on that because early reports in the media gave rise to feelings that it would run into hundreds. We did our best to salvage the rolling stock. At that time some people were saying that you will find hundreds of bodies in the coaches. Those coaches had been studiously searched by the very industrious naval divers who gave us very timely assistance. I must express my gratitude to the Navy. They recovered a number of bodies which were inside those coaches. But when finally the coaches were pulled out, fortunately those doubts were dispelled. Today the toll stands contained at 105 which too is a massive toll. I am not trying to diminish the size or the magnitude of the accident.

Mr. Indrajit Gupta mentioned about railway accidents and a number of other Members—though he himself did not—said that railway accidents were on the increase. I feel very hesitant, in a way very embarrassed to talk about statistics, cold statistics at a time of such high emotions. But when

such matters are raised by hon. Members of Parliament, it is my duty as head of the Railway Organisation to set the record straight. It is our endeavour to diminish the total number of accidents to the minimum possible and no complacency as Mr. Banatwalla expressed—I can assure him that no complacency will be allowed to creep in through satisfaction of viewing the end of the year statistics. However, since this matter has been raised, I must set the record straight.

There has been continuous improvement in the last three years in the number of railway accidents. The year 1985-86 was the lowest ever in Indian railway history. There was a further improvement of approximately 10% in 1986-87. 1987-88 has been a record low in Indian railway history. A large number of these accidents of course took place in freight movement. We pay special attention and special care, extra care, more care than freight movement for passenger movement. In the 604 accidents that took place in 1987-88—I include minor derailment of freight wagons and accidents at un-manned crossings which are the responsibility of the road user—there were only seven accidents where people lost their lives and 19 more in which people were injured.

I have to time and again remind the House, over and over again that my stating these figures today should in no way be interpreted as expression of satisfaction on my part. We will never be satisfied. We will continually try and improve this record. But the fact remains that through the efforts of not the Minister but from the Chairman Railway Board down to the junior most on the line—the PWI, the patrol man, the gangman who work day in and day out—to them I must pay tribute. Everytime in my Budget speech I have tried to pay tribute to them. Their endeavours have borne some fruit. At such time of tragedy it is a natural sentiment that we with one Left sweep brush all that work aside. I would like to remind the House that those men have endeavoured and have worked towards greater rail safety and rail safety has improved. But we are not satisfied and the effort will be kept up continuously in the future too.

I would like to mention that if you take the base year of 1981-82 there has been a diminishing in accidents to passenger trains by 43.7 per cent. It has been almost halved. I would also like to mention here because here again Mr. Indrajit Gupta mentioned this, that according to him some foreign railway experts who were wandering around our system said that if such tracks existed in their countries they would never dare to run their trains at the speed that we are running. Mind you again it is a strange situation that has suddenly occurred, where I have to tell the House almost in a way of assuring the House that the Rajdhani which was cleared for 130 km. per hour in 1969 is today cleared for 120 kmph. The Mail and Express trains which were cleared for 110 km. many of them are today cleared only for 100 kmph I mean this is in a way opposite to progress but strangely enough I have to re-assure the House that we have slowed down when actually we should be speeding up the trains keeping full safety in mind.

We are in any case much slower than the railways abroad and I think there is no major harm in that because our priorities are different. Their priorities are different. Our priorities must not necessarily be high speed trains. Our priority must be to increase the capacity so that the common man who has no alternate means of transport in this country gets an opportunity to travel from one place to another at as reasonable a price as possible. This should be our priority. High speed beyond a certain point is not really relevant in our country. There is no point in running Rajdhani at 200 kmph. and aiming to do that by spending thousands and thousands of crores of rupees. Take you at 7 or 8 AM and deposit you at Howrah at 2.30 a.m. You might have a good rest and reach at 5.30 or 6.00 a.m. So the margin of improvement is such that really high speed is not that relevant today in our country. We must aim for it in the future and go towards it from the point of view of trying to acquire technology in a limited way because that itself has its own fall out and ripple effect on other technology areas. So that should not be our main objective. Our main objective must be bulk transport in the cheapest way possible for the common man who has no alternate means of transport in this country.

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

Anyhow, I digressed but those foreign experts and if such existed I would like to tell the House that recently in an article in *Progressive Rail-Roading*, which is an international magazine, it is mentioned that :

"Canadian Railways in late 1987 was headed for further gains in safety, after having logged its safest year ever in 1986 and the best record among comparable North American Class I Railroads, that is, the USA."

The accidents per million train kilometres—which were published in miles, converted into kilometres—in 1987 are 1.10. We are 1.02 and our safety record, when compared to the safety records of those abroad, does not fare too badly. Japanese—much quoted with the technology that is available to them, which was not available to us—1.36 and we are 1.02 ; British 1.88 ; Germany 1.54 ; Pakistan—comparable railways—12.45. The only developed country, of which we have figures, which has a better record than us, is France. And that is 0.88. But I think considering the technology that is available to us, Indian Railways have tried to do their best in the circumstances. The fact that we compare favourably with international railways without the technology, that is available to them, is itself a tribute to those hundreds and thousands of railwaymen who work night and day to ensure the safe travel of passengers on the Indian Rail way system.

Sir, a number of Members talked about level crossings. I would like to mention that in this country, we have approximately 40,000 level crossings of which 25,000 are unmanned and 15,000 are manned. Manning is done on the basis of certain traffic figures and on the basis of certain norms. If we were to man all the 25,000, it would cost us crores of rupees. Therefore, for those crossings, on which there is not much traffic, through a campaign of education and creating a greater awareness in the road-user, we can involve him in the railway exercise. I feel that responsibility should not be shirked because those crores

of rupees can be spent in other safety features, like track renewal, like renewal of rolling-stock, like automatic and various other sophisticated signalling and track circuiting.

These are precious resources which are very limited. If I had unlimited resources, certainly a lot of things could be done. In fact, within the resources available, new lines have been given meagre allocations in the last 2-3 years. How much flak had the Railway Ministry to face ? Time and again, during budget discussions and other discussions, Shri Basudeb Acharya—sitting in front of me—himself raised issues about West Bengal ; quite rightly so.

Shri Balkavi Bairagi had talked about Madhya Pradesh. And many Members talked about their States. But in 1985, we took a conscious decision that rather than concentrating on far and wide expansion of system, in a meaningful manner some expansion will go on. Our main priority must be rail safety. To ensure rail safety, our bulk investment must be on track renewal and renewal of rolling-stock. That is why as much as 60 per cent of our total annual plan allocation is spent on these two heads alone—33 per cent on renewal of rolling-stock and in these three years, between 20—25 per cent on track renewal. On an average, 1,909 kilometres of track was renewed in the Sixth Plan every year. We are renewing, on an average in these first three years, approximately between 3,900 and 4,200 kilometres of track. We have a programme to wipe out every year the backlog, that we inherited in 1985, of approximately 20,000 kilometres by 1995 by wiping out about 2000 to 2500 kms of backlog every year along with 2200 and odd kms of new arising that crop every year ; that makes a total of 4000—4200 kms. We would certainly like to expedite this programme even more. Today we are spending Rs. 800—900 crores on this. If we double it, we will have to spend Rs. 1800 crores, which would be 60—65 per cent of our Plan. Then, how can we spend on signalling and telecommunication, how can we spend on renewal of rolling stock and how can we spend on certain project linked lines like Koraput-Raiguda line ? We have given Rs.

60 crores for that and if that line is not completed in time, your thousands crores of investment for the Vizag Steel Plant will go waste. Therefore, a balanced approach has to be made because of the resources available. Now, I come back to the level crossings. In India, the total number of level crossing accidents in 1987-88 was 62, which included unattended crossings also. We have 11000 trains running every day. Time and again, I have to remind the House, I am not being complacent, I am not satisfied, but the improvement by the railway staff and the railway officers have been tremendous. In a comparable year, 1983-84, because that is the year for which figures are available internationally. On the Indian Railways, the total number of accidents on railway crossings was 82; in Britain it was 55, better than us; in Japan, which is much quoted with all the technology, it was 651, ten times which took place in India; West Germany 255, USA 662 and in India, as I said, 82.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Road traffic should also be taken into consideration.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Naturally, technology should also be taken into consideration. One neutralises the other and, therefore, the figures become comparable. I am only mentioning these figures because the hon. Member, Shri Indrajit Gupta mentioned foreign experts and I just wanted to put the record straight that internationally, we are not figuring that badly.

I would again like to quote another foreign statistics. Shri Indrajit Gupta mentioned about that also. I would like to mention the number of deaths per number of passengers travelled. In USA for every 200,000 passengers that travel, there is one death; in France for every 17 lakh passengers, there is one death, in United Kingdom for every 66 lakhs passengers that travel, there is one death and in India for every three and a half crores of passengers that travel, there is one death.

I would like to put these in proper perspective when we judge these things. What

a massive system this is with 11 thousand trains running every day, where the amount of route traversed by the railways is equivalent to circling the world 23 times every day! That is the magnitude of the task and we attempt not to be over-awed by this magnitude and try and see that the situation is handled in such a way that in spite of the magnitude of the task, we are ahead internationally and at the same time keeping that magnitude of the task in mind do not derive a magnitude of satisfaction from being ahead marginally of many other developed countries.

I would like to assure the hon. Members that as far as track renewal is concerned, as far as the renewal of rolling stock is concerned, full attention is being given to these areas. They are considered our priority areas.

Regarding bridges, I am sorry Mr. Gupta is not present here; but he talked about distressed bridges. Distressed bridges are those bridges where there are some signs that a closer watch must be kept. Maybe the word is open to misinterpretation. Maybe a better term could have been used—a better nomenclature. But distressed bridges do not mean unsafe bridges. A distressed bridge means that certain signs are occurring where extra attention has to be given, and extra emphasis has to be given, and a much closer watch than normal has to be extended until that bridge is rehabilitated. In our bridge rehabilitation programme too, in 1982 we had approximately 2200 bridges which were labelled as distress bridges—not unsafe bridges, again. That number, by eliminating about 300 to 350 a year including the new arisings of about 100 to 150 bridges a year, we have brought down this year to 913; and in another 3 to 3½ years, we should be able, I think, to clear the backlog which we have inherited, and just deal with the new arisings every year.

But again, I would like to emphasize that distressed bridges are not unsafe bridges; and this particular bridge was not a distress bridge. Some mention was made about the Trivandrum Express having experienced some sort of a jolt about 2 or 3 Kms. ahead, before the approach of the

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

bridge. It was a fact. I think it was on the 30th of June that a slight jolt was felt by one of the railwaymen on the train. It was reported at that particular station; and an immediate caution order was issued. Four goods trains passed whilst that caution order was levied. A caution order means that you cut down your speed to a very minimal amount and proceed very carefully. The PWI examined the track extremely closely and the next day or the same day, after close examination gave clearance again that the track was fit, and was in a good condition. Apart from that, various other tests were also carried out. A track recording car was run on the section on 21st January 1988 and the track geometry was found in a satisfactory condition. On the 12th April 1988 AEN inspected the bridge and also passed it as being in sound condition. Something called the accelerometer recording of the section was last carried out on 10th March 1988 wherein the accelerated values were observed to be less than .02 g, which indicates a satisfactory condition of the track. So, in every way the inspection procedures had been carried out, and the track had been replaced. I would not like to go further on this, throw any further light on this or speculate on this, because there is an enquiry in process, and I would not like to prejudice or vitiate that particular enquiry.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : I had spoken about repeated derailment between Quilon and Kottayam during the last two years.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Derailments occur not necessarily because of the track. Derailments can occur because of mechanical failure, equipment failure; it can occur due to sabotage as, in fact, happened in the case of the two accidents that had been mentioned.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : But there are repeated derailments on the same route.

• SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I am telling you : there are different reasons, and differing reasons which are the cause for

derailments. Therefore, you cannot say that it was necessarily because of one particular reason. It can even be caused by faulty driving of this particular goods train; it can be because of equipment failure, it can be because of track failure, it can be because of sabotage, it can be because of an obstacle, or possibly because of a mistake.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Was this enquired into ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I will look into it.

There was some mention, also of the accident that took place to the Tamil Nadu Express which, I think the hon. Members know, was as a result of the tampering of the track on the approach to the bridge, and has been put down as a sabotage. Apart from that, Mr. Gupta mentioned rail fractures.

As far as rail fractures are concerned, again, there has been a significant improvement. In the Southern Railway, if I remember rightly, there has been an improvement, almost 30 per cent, and on the Railways as a whole there has been an improvement in these last three years since 1984-85, there had been an increase of 4 per cent, continual increase built up to that particular time. But from that time onwards there was a decrease of 20 per cent and ranging between 10 and 20 per cent in subsequent years also. So, in rail fractures there has been significant improvement.

There was some mention about the track maintenance being given out on contract. No item of regular track maintenance is being done by contractors.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : What about track renewal ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : There are certain track maintenance areas which are sometimes given out on contract, but they are very peripheral. As a policy, no work of regular track maintenance is allowed to be done by contract, only special things like, some things of occasional nature, deep screening of ballast and certain areas of track renewal are done on contract. But the bulk of the work is all still done departmentally by the Railways.

Mr. Gupta also asked about the performance of the tamping machines and various other machines. A constant watch is kept on those machines and they are satisfactory.

The driver was promoted from the Shunter to a Driver, the lowest grade of B or C, in 1980. So, he has had eight years of working as a driver. He was promoted from Shunter to Driver (C) on 16th September, 1980. So, he has had eight years of experience.

I think I have covered most of the points that the hon. Members have mentioned, and also Mr. Indrajit Gupta's points, who very comprehensively made his presentation. I think most of the points that hon. Member Shri Suresh Kurup made also have been covered here.

I would once again like to say that we in the Rail Ministry are very grieved by this tragedy that occurred, our deepest, most heart felt and most sincere condolences go to the bereaved families. We will try and ensure that speedy compensation is given to them. As hon. Members know, an ad hoc Claims Commissioner has to be appointed on the recommendation of the State Government. Within three days of the accident we wrote to the State Government and received the name a few days ago. Within three working days of having received the name the notification has been issued yesterday, and an ad hoc Claims Commissioner has been appointed. On his demanding money, it will be immediately deposited and after that the matter then lies in his hands to expeditiously dispose of the cases.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Has the Chief Minister been entrusted to collect money from the Gulf countries to compensate the victims ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I do not want to comment on the Chief Minister's action.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : You must. You must do. It is very degrading. It is politically motivated. (Interruptions) Was there any paucity of funds on your part here, that led him to go there ? You comment on that. (Interruptions) What type of politics is going on there ? You must comment upon such things.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : It is a very serious matter. (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : An impression is created as if no funds are made available here..(Interruptions) What an impression it creates to go with a begging bowl before the International community ; such an image has been created..(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : You people are getting even otherwise...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : This is a matter of national honour. Have a sense. I am not talking about who gets what from Moscow...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Okay.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, what Mr. Banatwalla has expressed and my hon. friend has expressed, I think that they have already very eloquently given expression to sentiments that exist in the hearts of many of us. I, as a Railway Minister, would not like to comment on the Chief Minister's action. (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Do not be so good.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I think enough has been said. All I can say is that if the reports are true....(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : It is true. So what ? (Interruptions)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : This is the copy of the appeal published in Gulf Times and Arab Times...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Ramachandran, let me just complete. If it is true that he says that the money is being collected for the pedestrian footpath, I find it extremely strange because I had already announced that as a special case, the Railways at their cost will build that pedestrian footpath. Mr. Krishna Kumar, Mr. Karunakaran, Mr. Ramachandran—they have been talking to me about this, they have been mentioning this to me and I had already accepted it and declared that as a special case, the bill will be fully footed by the Railways. So, I do not see any reason for anyone to ask for any money either

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

inside this country or outside this country. I find it very strange if it is true...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN : The Chief Minister entrusted the job of collecting money to two private agencies. Their names are given here...*(Interruptions)* This is the copy of the appeal made by the Chief Minister in Gulf Times as well as in Arab Times. I am prepared to place it on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No.
(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Permit him to place it on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No. Let him write...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP : There is nothing to cover it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : If what is said is true, all the reports are true, I think this is most unfortunate...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP : It is true. What is wrong in it?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I think it is for a man as senior as him to judge for himself as to what actions he should take...*(Interruptions)* Also the Kerala Government has been through hon. Members of Parliament, through my friends like Sureshji and even in Rajya Sabha, some hon. Members of Parliament of Kerala from the Opposition benches and also the public in Kerala have been talking about my not having mentioned the role of Kerala Government or the Chief Minister. I can only say that I have time and again mentioned my appreciation, first of all, to the fishermen, who rendered services of the highest order given at a time of great stress and great crisis, and we highly appreciate their spontaneous action. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : You must also give some rewards to them.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I had already mentioned to Mr. Krishna Kumar that if they can find some society or some organisation to which we can make

some suitable donation, then we would like to do it. I had already mentioned this to Mr. Krishna Kumar a few days back and I hope to get some feedback from him. Along with that I also mentioned that the local administration responded with alacrity. The Collector and the full team worked very hard and gave us all assistance. Administratively they are a wing of the Kerala Government. When I say that I have appreciated what the administration has done, they are the bureaucratic wing of the Government. I express my appreciation to the bureaucratic wing of the Government.

As far as the political wing is concerned, the less said about it the better. Because instead of trying to pour oil over troubled waters, instead of trying to defuse emotions, all that we kept getting from some hon. Ministers of the Kerala Government which was most unfortunate at such a time of tragedy, were attempts to try and whip up emotions and sentiments and try and inflame the situation, instead of trying to help us in pouring oil over the troubled waters.

This is most unfortunate. Therefore, in my conscience I could not express appreciation to that sort of political action that was taking place on such an incident. But to the bureaucratic wing of the Kerala Government I express my full appreciation for all the support that they have given. Undoubtedly they have given us great support.

I would like to thank my colleague Shri Krishna Kumar, Shri Banatwalla, Shri Balkavi Bairagi and Shri Harish Rawat for their very kind words at the time of great mental stress for all of us.

It would go a long way, I can assure you, to re-kindle our morale and raise our spirits so as to rededicate ourselves to the task ahead and shoulder our responsibilities to the best of our ability.

I thank the House again for the patience they have shown and express my condolences in this tragedy.

19.45 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 12, 1988/Sravana 21, 1910 (Saka).